STANDING BEFORE *The Lord*

DEVOTIONS AND PRAYERS ON
THE BOOKS OF EZEKIEL & DANIEL

DAVY SIM

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THE BOOKS OF EZEKIEL & DANIEL

DAVY SIM

This book is dedicated to

Our Almighty God, the Lord Jesus Christ

and the Holy Spirit,

Who have blessed and kept

SINGAPORE BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

for the past 42 years;

and shall bless and keep her forevermore!

Foreword

Standing before the Lord is an awesome responsibility for any of His children. As sinners saved only by the grace of God, it is a privilege and honour to stand before Him. Both the prophets Daniel and Ezekiel stood before the Lord and continued to trust Him, even while they were in severe trials and troubles.

In today's chaotic world, it is timely that Davy Sim, Senior Pastor of Singapore Bible Baptist Church, pen this devotional entitled *Standing Before the Lord.* This is an act that we will all have to carry out as we journey with Him — may we emulate the prophet Daniel as he stood before the Lord even in the den of lions! As God's children, we must experience God's miracles and power as we firmly take our stand before Him.

What a joy to come to the throne of God with a strong and perfect plea, and to know that He warmly welcomes us just as we are. Can we one day stand before His throne and hear the Lord say to us, "Well done, good and faithful servant"?

It is my sincere desire that God will speak to you through these devotions and draw you closer to Him and His Word, and that you will look forward to standing before the Lord in whatever situation you may encounter in your walk with Him.

God has been good to Singapore Bible Baptist Church as we see lost souls coming to receive Christ as their personal Saviour and being added to the church through baptism. Praise be to God for the many missionaries whom we are supporting around the world. May we all work together in fulfilling the Great Commission for the gospel to be shared to all nations, so that many more might come boldly to stand before the Lord.

Alice Kurian
Founding Member
Singapore Bible Baptist Church

"And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none."

Ezekiel 22:30

Introduction

The lion is one of the most admired and powerful animals on the face of this earth and a masterpiece of God's creation — but even the mightiest lion is subject to His power. This was why the prophet Daniel referred to God's miraculous deliverance of himself from the power of the lions.

> "He delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, who hath delivered Daniel from the power of the lions."
> (Daniel 6:27)

Many admire the lion for its beauty, bravery and majesty. The lion fears no one, and no animal, not even the elephant (the largest land animal) dares to go near it. This is why the lion is indisputably called the king of the jungle.

Daniel, like the majestic lion, stood courageously before the Lord in spite of being persecuted by his enemies for his faith and trust in the true and living God. Besides Daniel, there was another prophet who also stood courageously before the Lord. His name was Ezekiel.

Both Daniel and Ezekiel were contemporaries. They ministered around the same time, and Ezekiel mentioned Daniel when he warned the rich and powerful prince of Tyrus. Although the prince might be wiser than Daniel, who was famous for his wisdom and understanding, God would humble him by sending the most ruthless and wicked nation

in existence to attack and destroy him and his people. Like Satan, the Devil, the prince of Tyrus had grown proud. He wanted to be like God and usurp His throne.

"The word of the LORD came again unto me, saying, Son of man, say unto the prince of Tyrus, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thine heart is lifted up, and thou hast said, I am a God, I sit in the seat of God, in the midst of the seas; yet thou art a man, and not God, though thou set thine heart as the heart of God: Behold, thou art wiser than Daniel; there is no secret that they can hide from thee: With thy wisdom and with thine understanding thou hast gotten thee riches, and hast gotten gold and silver into thy treasures: By thy great wisdom and by thy traffick hast thou increased thy riches, and thine heart is lifted up because of thy riches: Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thou hast set thine heart as the heart of God; Behold, therefore I will bring strangers upon thee, the terrible of the nations: and they shall draw their swords against the beauty of thy wisdom, and they shall defile thy brightness." (Ezekiel 28:1-7)

Daniel and Ezekiel served the Almighty God despite the fact that they had been forcefully taken as captives to a foreign land. Their enemies had ruthlessly conquered their land, killing many and taking the survivors to Babylon as slaves and labourers.

"And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none." (Ezekiel 22:30)

The people of Israel had grievously sinned against God, and that was why He had allowed their enemies, the Babylonians, to defeat them. Ezekiel was inspired by the Holy Spirit to declare to the people that the Almighty God would spare them from total destruction — if He could find a righteous man who would make up the hedge and stand in the gap before Him for the land of Israel.

However, God found none except Ezekiel himself!

How ironic that the Almighty God had to *search* for a man who would stand for Him in His own land. But thanks be to God, as it was not all doom and gloom. A few good and godly men, like the prophets Daniel and Ezekiel, would stand for the Lord and the land of Israel.

Today, when we truly repent of our sins and receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our personal Saviour, we are saved by God's grace and mercy, and rescued from hell to be forever with God. However, it does not mean that once we are saved, we can sit around, do nothing and wait for the coming of the Lord.

Christians, we are saved to stand and serve. Nobody can serve food by sitting down at the table. It is the same with the service of the Lord. Christians cannot serve the Lord by sitting down; we must stand to serve Him. This is the central theme of the blessed books of Ezekiel and Daniel.

Both Daniel and Ezekiel were able to stand before the Lord and serve Him. Why did they choose to do so, despite

the rebellion of everyone else against Him? They had three courageous qualities that differentiated them from the rest of the people.

❶ Standing Before The Lord — No Matter Who You Are
Daniel and Ezekiel were prisoners of war, yet never once did they gripe and groan about their captivity. They had complete faith and trust in their God.

> "Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, in the fifth day of the month, as I was among the captives by the river of Chebar, that the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God. In the fifth day of the month, which was the fifth year of king Jehoiachin's captivity, The word of the LORD came expressly unto Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the river Chebar; and the hand of the LORD was there upon him." (Ezekiel 1:1-3)

> "And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none. Therefore have I poured out mine indignation upon them; I have consumed them with the fire of my wrath: their own way have I recompensed upon their heads, saith the Lord GOD." (Ezekiel 22:30-31)

Ezekiel received visions of God and he fully submitted to Him, even though he was a prisoner of war. He did not blame God for making him a Babylonian prisoner, but he accepted his situation and was ready to preach the Word of God to his fellow prisoners.

When all men failed before God, Ezekiel stood tall before the Lord in holiness.

"In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah came Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon unto Jerusalem, and besieged it...
And the king spake unto Ashpenaz the master of his eunuchs, that he should bring certain of the children of Israel, and of the king's seed, and of the princes;
Children in whom was no blemish, but well favoured, and skilful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science, and such as had ability in them to stand in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans." (Daniel 1:1, 3-4)

As a young man, Daniel had also been brought up as a prisoner of the Babylonians. Daniel did not complain about his captivity either, but he purposed in his heart to obey the true and living God. He was determined to keep himself holy before a holy God. He would not defile himself by taking the Babylonian king's meat and wine against the Lord's commandments.

"Now among these were of the children of Judah, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: Unto whom the prince of the eunuchs gave names: for he gave unto Daniel the name of Belteshazzar; and to Hananiah, of Shadrach; and to Mishael, of Meshach; and to Azariah, of Abednego.
But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself." (Daniel 1:6-8)

Both Daniel and Ezekiel were nobodies, yet they still stood before the Lord — their earthly status was irrelevant. God is not a respecter of persons. The Lord still accepted them and used them to preach and prophesy His Word for His glory and honour.

My friend, God accepts you no matter who you are.

You may think that you are a nobody, or the worst sinner, or the most wicked or wretched person. But God will accept you as long as you confess and repent of your sins, and receive the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour and Lord.

❷ Standing Before The Lord — No Matter Where You Are
Daniel and Ezekiel chose to loyally serve their God, despite being prisoners in the foreign land of Babylon (or Chaldea). Ezekiel served as the Lord's prophet in the land of the Babylonians, while Daniel served as adviser to the Babylonian king, and subsequently to the Persian king when the Persians defeated the Babylonians.

My friends, you can love the Lord and serve Him no matter where you are. You might be in a foreign country, in prison, or any dark and terrible place. God does not care where you are, but He cares where your heart is.

So let us lay up for ourselves treasures in heaven where no moth nor rust will corrupt them and where thieves cannot steal them, as we faithfully serve and worship the Lord with our hearts wherever we are.

"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (Matthew 6:19-21)

❸ Standing Before The Lord — No Matter How You Are

Daniel and Ezekiel were in severe trials and troubles, but continued to trust God.

"The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones, And caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry. And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest.
Again he said unto me, Prophesy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live: And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the LORD." (Ezekiel 37:1-6)

Ezekiel in the Valley of the Dead

Ezekiel was truly in a valley of death. Nobody listened to his prophecy and preaching, nor did anyone obey what God had commanded them through him. The people of Israel were disappointed, discouraged, and distressed — they were

prisoners in the land of Babylon, and the last thing they wanted to hear was a preacher and a prophet of the God they blamed for their troubles.

But God had sent His man, Ezekiel, to encourage and inspire the people of Israel by reminding them of His great promises. The God of Israel would never leave them or forsake them, but be with them through the mountains and the valleys, in the day and the night.

Yet the people of Israel refused to take heed of Ezekiel. Did he give up because the people rebelled against him, and no one listened to him?

No!

Ezekiel continued to trust God, and faithfully prophesied to the people of Israel. He knew that without a shadow of doubt that with God nothing is impossible. God would make dry, dead bones to breathe and live according to His power, might and spirit.

The people of Israel were dry and dead, without hope and life — yet the Almighty God did not once give up on them. Finally, the people of Israel repented of their sins and wickedness, and God lovingly breathed new life into them and gave them a bright future.

What a tremendous blessing for the people of Israel as they repented, and believed in the true and living God! What a tremendous blessing for *you* if you repent and believe in the true and living God!

"So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army.
Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts.
Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves, And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken it, and performed it, saith the LORD." (Ezekiel 37:10-14)

Daniel in the Den of the Lions

"Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee. And a stone was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet, and with the signet of his lords; that the purpose might not be changed concerning Daniel." (Daniel 6:16-17)

Acting on advice from governors jealous of Daniel, the mighty Medo-Persian King Darius had decreed that those who asked petition of any God or man for thirty days other than the king himself would be cast into the den of lions. But Daniel continued to pray to his God and was thrown into it.

"Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live for ever. My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt. Then was the king exceeding glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God." (Daniel 6:21-23)

What a testimony as Daniel stood before the Lord, even in the den of the lions! Daniel did not fear death, and he knew that even if he died there, he would be resurrected to see God in heaven. However, the Almighty God delivered Daniel by sending His angels to shut the lions' mouths, and Daniel was unhurt. The same God who created the lions was able to prevent them from devouring His faithful servant!

Not only was Daniel delighted with God's mighty deliverance, but his courageous testimony won the tender heart of the king who now believed that the God of Daniel was indeed the true God of all the world. King Darius threw the conspirators to the lions, and commanded all the people in his empire to tremble in fear before the God of Daniel:

"for he is the living God, and stedfast for ever, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed, and his dominion shall be even unto the end. He delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, who hath delivered Daniel from the power of the lions. So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius, and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian." (Daniel 6:26b-28)

What a great and glorious career for a man who refused to obey the king's commands over the Lord's!

Daniel and Ezekiel were great men not because *they* were great — but because their God was great as they stood before Him for their land and their homes.

May this book, a compilation of 60 daily devotions and prayers from each of the 48 chapters of Ezekiel's book and 12 chapters of Daniel's, be a great blessing and encouragement to you as you stand before Him for such a time as this. May the Lord revive, renew and refresh you during these 60 days of devotions and prayers to stand before Him in your home, church and community, no matter Who, Where and How you are.

Are you Standing Before The Lord?

PART 1

Ezekiel

EZEKIEL 1

Are You Worshipping God?

Verse Of The Day

v1 "Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, in the fifth day of the month, as I was among the captives by the river of Chebar, that the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God."

❶ The Visions of God (v. 1-14)

v1 "Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, in the fifth day of the month, as I was among the captives by the river of Chebar, that the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God."

Ezekiel, a priest from the tribe of Levi and now a prisoner of Babylon, had the privilege of seeing visions of God warning the people of Israel of the impending calamities, telling them of the future restoration of Israel, and foretelling the coming of the Messiah. He also saw the prophecy of the first coming of the Messiah, in the form of four living creatures which had the face of a man, a lion, an ox and an eagle. (This actually harmonizes with the four depictions of Jesus in each New Testament Gospel; Matthew's is symbolized by a lion, Mark's an ox, Luke's a man and John's an eagle.)

v10 "As for the likeness of their faces, they four had the face of a man, and the face of a lion, on the right side: and they four had the face of an ox on the left side; they four also had the face of an eagle."

❷ The Voice of God (v. 15-25)

v24 "And when they went, I heard the noise of their wings, like the noise of great waters, as the voice of the Almighty, the voice of speech, as the noise of an host: when they stood, they let down their wings."

Besides the visions, Ezekiel also heard the voice of God confirming them and telling him of all the prophecies that would be fulfilled in the future.

❸ The Glory of God (v. 26-28)

v28 "As the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud in the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness round about. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. And when I saw it, I fell upon my face, and I heard a voice of one that spake."

When Ezekiel saw the glory of God, it was like seeing a beautiful rainbow after a shower of rain. When men see God, they will immediately fall to the ground because of the beauty, holiness and brightness of God. Let us humbly worship God and serve Him, as the day will come when we shall see God in all His glory. We shall fall upon our faces and know that He is indeed worthy of all our worship.

Prayer Of The Day

Dearest God, please help me to worship You with all humility and holiness.

Are You Courageous?

Verse Of The Day

v6 "And thou, son of man, be not afraid of them, neither be afraid of their words, though briers and thorns be with thee, and thou dost dwell among scorpions: be not afraid of their words, nor be dismayed at their looks, though they be a rebellious house."

❶ The Rebel (v. 1-3)

v3 "And he said unto me, Son of man, I send thee to the children of Israel, to a rebellious nation that hath rebelled against me: they and their fathers have transgressed against me, even unto this very day."

The prophet Ezekiel preached and warned the people of Israel that God's judgment would fall upon them unless they repented of their sins. Yet the supposed people of God refused to repent. The people who hurt God most are professing Christians, who worship God for a few hours every Sunday but live like devils the rest of the week. It is easy to claim to be a Christian, but hard to truly live it.

❷ The Rude (v. 4-8)

v4 "For they are impudent children and stiffhearted. I do send thee unto them; and thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD."

The people of Israel were not only rebellious, but rude and stubborn. They were so bent on doing evil, they would rather have killed Ezekiel than listen to his preaching and warning of God's impending judgment. How could Ezekiel not be afraid of these evil people? But the Lord who had called him would also protect him.

v6 "And thou, son of man, be not afraid of them, neither be afraid of their words, though briers and thorns be with thee, and thou dost dwell among scorpions: be not afraid of their words, nor be dismayed at their looks, though they be a rebellious house."

❸ The Roll (v. 9-10)

v9 "And when I looked, behold, an hand was sent unto me; and, lo, a roll of a book was therein;"

Ezekiel saw a scroll, filled with severe warnings and judgments of God because of the rebellion of the people of Israel. There would be lamentation, mourning and troubles everywhere as Israel reaped the consequences of its sins.

v10 "And he spread it before me; and it was written within and without: and there was written therein lamentations, and mourning, and woe."

Prayer Of The Day

Dearest God, please grant me the courage to obey You in spite of fierce opposition.

Are You God's Faithful Watchman?

Verse Of The Day

v17 "Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me."

❶ Study God's Word (v. 1-14)

v3 "And he said unto me, Son of man, cause thy belly to eat, and fill thy bowels with this roll that I give thee. Then did I eat it; and it was in my mouth as honey for sweetness."

God gave the prophet Ezekiel the roll which was His Word, so that he could preach to the people of God's great love and their need to turn from their wicked ways and follow His commandments. Christians are God's watchmen who must love to study God's Word, the Bible, so that they know exactly what God desires them to do.

❷ Spread God's Word (v. 15-21)

v17 "Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me."

God warned Ezekiel that the blood of the people would be in his hands if he neglected to warn them of the impending

judgement of God if they refused to repent of their sins. Similarly, the blood of unbelievers is in the hands of those Christians who neglect to share the Gospel with them. Jesus alone saves, and whosoever believes in Him shall never perish, but have everlasting life with Him in heaven.

v20 "Again, When a righteous man doth turn from his righteousness, and commit iniquity, and I lay a stumblingblock before him, he shall die: because thou hast not given him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he hath done shall not be remembered; but his blood will I require at thine hand."

❸ Speak God's Word (v. 22-27)

v26 "And I will make thy tongue cleave to the roof of thy mouth, that thou shalt be dumb, and shalt not be to them a reprover: for they are a rebellious house."

Ezekiel was discouraged when the people refused to repent. God made Ezekiel dumb so that he could no longer reprove the people. Towards the end, God gave his voice back and commanded him to speak exactly His judgement upon them. Similarly, Christians must speak exactly what God says through the Bible. Those who add to or take away from His Word are committing a grave sin.

v27 "But when I speak with thee, I will open thy mouth, and thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; he that heareth, let him hear; and he that forbeareth, let him forbear: for they are a rebellious house."

Prayer Of The Day

Dearest God, please help me to be Your faithful watchman.

EZEKIEL 4

Are You Obedient?

Verse Of The Day

v14 "Then said I, Ah Lord God! behold, my soul hath not been polluted: for from my youth up even till now have I not eaten of that which dieth of itself, or is torn in pieces; neither came there abominable flesh into my mouth."

❶ 390 Years (v. 1-5)

v4 "Lie thou also upon thy left side, and lay the iniquity of the house of Israel upon it: according to the number of the days that thou shalt lie upon it thou shalt bear their iniquity."

God told Ezekiel that He would punish Israel, the Northern Kingdom, for 390 years for their sins. He commanded Ezekiel to lie on his left side for 390 days, each day representing a year. Imagine the prophet lying on his side for more than a year! This was how obedient he was, in stark contrast to the people of Israel.

v5 "For I have laid upon thee the years of their iniquity, according to the number of the days, three hundred and ninety days: so shalt thou bear the iniquity of the house of Israel."

❷ 40 Years (v. 6-8)

v6 "And when thou hast accomplished them, lie again on thy right side, and thou shalt bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days: I have appointed thee each day for a year."

If there was one obedient man in the entire world, he must be Ezekiel! Not only had he laid on his left side for 390 days, but now he had to lie on his right side for 40 days for the sins of Judah, the Southern Kingdom.

❸ Eternity (v. 9-17)

v14 "Then said I, Ah Lord God! behold, my soul hath not been polluted: for from my youth up even till now have I not eaten of that which dieth of itself, or is torn in pieces; neither came there abominable flesh into my mouth."

As if lying for 430 days were not enough, God next commanded Ezekiel to eat defiled bread he had never eaten before. Ezekiel was willing to obey God, no matter how inconvenient and how difficult life became. He knew that he would rather suffer on earth and enjoy eternity with God in heaven, than to enjoy life on earth and suffer eternity in hell without God. Ezekiel was a type of the Christ to come: one obedient to death, even the cruel death of the cross.

"And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." (Philippians 2:8)

Prayer Of The Day

Dearest God, please help me to be obedient to You even if it costs my life.

EZEKIEL 5

Are You Among The Few?

Verse Of The Day

v3 "Thou shalt also take thereof a few in number, and bind them in thy skirts."

❶ The Third (v. 1-2)

v1 "And thou, son of man, take thee a sharp knife, take thee a barber's razor, and cause it to pass upon thine head and upon thy beard: then take thee balances to weigh, and divide the hair."

Ezekiel divided his hair into three parts after he had shaved them from his head and beard. This was a symbol from God that He would punish Israel in three ways because of their sins. One third of Israel would be burned with fire. Another third would be killed by their enemies, and the last third would be scattered to the neighbouring countries.

v2 "Thou shalt burn with fire a third part in the midst of the city, when the days of the siege are fulfilled: and thou shalt take a third part, and smite about it with a knife: and a third part thou shalt scatter in the wind; and I will draw out a sword after them."

❷ The Few (v. 3-11)

v3 "Thou shalt also take thereof a few in number, and bind them in thy skirts."

God also commanded Ezekiel to bind a few of his hairs underneath his robe. These precious few hairs represented the precious few people who were obedient to God, against the majority which were even more disobedient than their neigbouring nations.

v7 "Therefore thus saith the Lord God; Because ye multiplied more than the nations that are round about you, and have not walked in my statutes, neither have kept my judgments, neither have done according to the judgments of the nations that are round about you;"

❸ The Choice (v. 12-17)

v15 "So it shall be a reproach and a taunt, an instruction and an astonishment unto the nations that are round about thee, when I shall execute judgments in thee in anger and in fury and in furious rebukes. I the LORD have spoken it."

Israel was to be an example of God's blessings, but instead became the target of God's anger. Though many choose to deny and disobey God, there will always be the few who choose to trust and obey Him and live for His glory.

"Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." (Matthew 7:14)

Prayer Of The Day

Dearest God, please help me to be among the few who choose to trust and obey You.

Is God Your Lord?

Verse Of The Day

v7 "And the slain shall fall in the midst of you, and ye shall know that I am the LORD."

❶ The Idol (v. 1-7)

v5 "And I will lay the dead carcases of the children of Israel before their idols; and I will scatter your bones round about your altars."

Anything or anyone that comes between you and God is an idol. It can be your son, your daughter, your career, your hobby — anything that you put above God. The people of Israel had many idols in their lives, and God had to remind them time and again through His judgments that either He was the LORD of their lives or He was nothing to them.

v7 "And the slain shall fall in the midst of you, and ye shall know that I am the LORD."

❷ The Heart (v. 8-10)

v9 "And they that escape of you shall remember me among the nations whither they shall be carried captives, because I am broken with their whorish heart, which hath departed from me, and with their eyes, which go a whoring after their idols: and they

shall lothe themselves for the evils which they have committed in all their abominations."

A true Christian will hate sin and will desire to keep his heart pure and holy before God. Even if the true Christian sins, he will be convicted and ultimately repent of his sins by God's grace. However, the false believer will not repent but continue in his error.

v10 "And they shall know that I am the LORD, and that I have not said in vain that I would do this evil unto them."

❸ The Judgment (v. 11-14)

v11 "Thus saith the Lord GOD; Smite with thine hand, and stamp with thy foot, and say, Alas for all the evil abominations of the house of Israel! for they shall fall by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence."

God has His ways of judging and bringing His people to repentance — wars, famine and disease among them. At the end of the day, you will have to decide whether you will acknowledge God as the Lord of your life, or treat Him as nothing.

v14 "So will I stretch out my hand upon them, and make the land desolate, yea, more desolate than the wilderness toward Diblath, in all their habitations: and they shall know that I am the LORD."

Prayer Of The Day

Dearest God, please help me to submit to You and know that You are my LORD.

Are You Seeking Peace?

Verse Of The Day

v25 **"Destruction cometh; and they shall seek peace, and there shall be none."**

❶ Pride (v. 1-15)

v10 "Behold the day, behold, it is come: the morning is gone forth; the rod hath blossomed, pride hath budded."

Man has become proud. Many seek to live for themselves and deny the existence of God. Many people now think that those who believe in God are the weak-minded who need a "Higher Being" to help them find purpose and peace in their struggles and challenges. But they fail to realize that there is indeed a true and living God who created them, and only He can grant perfect peace in a wicked world. This was why the exiles of Judah continued in their pride and sins, even though Ezekiel had warned them of God's impending judgment.

v15 "The sword is without, and the pestilence and the famine within: he that is in the field shall die with the sword; and he that is in the city, famine and pestilence shall devour him."

❷ Power (v. 16-19)

v17 "All hands shall be feeble, and all knees shall be weak as water."

The proud and powerful shall be humbled. Nothing, not even their power or position, or their fame or fortune, can save them from the judgment and anger of the Almighty God.

v19 "They shall cast their silver in the streets, and their gold shall be removed: their silver and their gold shall not be able to deliver them in the day of the wrath of the LORD: they shall not satisfy their souls, neither fill their bowels: because it is the stumblingblock of their iniquity."

❸ Peace (v. 20-27)

v25 "Destruction cometh; and they shall seek peace, and there shall be none."

The conditions that plagued Ezekiel's time are still around: injustice, violence, disease and war. The only way to have peace is to seek God's perfect peace. People fail to realize that only He can truly satisfy their deepest needs and save their wretched souls from damnation.

"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

Prayer Of The Day

Dearest God, please help me to seek Your peace as only You have perfect peace.

EZEKIEL 8

How Is Your Character?

Verse Of The Day

v12 "Then said he unto me, Son of man, hast thou seen what the ancients of the house of Israel do in the dark, every man in the chambers of his imagery? for they say, The LORD seeth us not; the LORD hath forsaken the earth."

❶ God's Glory (v. 1-6)

v4 "And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel was there, according to the vision that I saw in the plain."

God brought Ezekiel to see His great glory, as well as the great sins of the people. It was a sight that Ezekiel would never forget in his lifetime. He saw both the glory of God in its highest character, and the sins of the people in their lowest character.

v6 "He said furthermore unto me, Son of man, seest thou what they do? even the great abominations that the house of Israel committeth here, that I should go far off from my sanctuary? but turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations."

❷ God's Revelation (v. 7-12)

v7 "And he brought me to the door of the court; and when I looked, behold a hole in the wall."

God revealed the secret sins of Israel's leaders to Ezekiel through a hole in the wall. The people who were supposedly holy men of God teaching His laws also broke the law and sinned against Him, like everyone else.

v10 "So I went in and saw; and behold every form of creeping things, and abominable beasts, and all the idols of the house of Israel, pourtrayed upon the wall round about."

❸ God's Fury (v. 13-18)

v12 "Then said he unto me, Son of man, hast thou seen what the ancients of the house of Israel do in the dark, every man in the chambers of his imagery? for they say, The LORD seeth us not; the LORD hath forsaken the earth."

The character of a man is determined when he is "in the dark", or alone facing temptations. God's blessings are upon a man when he overcomes temptations even when he is alone. However, the man who falls into temptation and sins must answer to God for it. One sin that greatly draws God's fury is self-deception — when men think that God cannot see their sins.

v18 "Therefore will I also deal in fury: mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity: and though they cry in mine ears with a loud voice, yet will I not hear them."

Prayer Of The Day

Dearest God, please help me to do right even when no one else is around.

EZEKIEL 9

Are You God's Man?

Verse Of The Day

v4 "And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof."

❶ God's Glory (v. 1-3)

v1 "He cried also in mine ears with a loud voice, saying, Cause them that have charge over the city to draw near, even every man with his destroying weapon in his hand."

God told Ezekiel that He would destroy the people of Israel because of their grievous sins and wickedness. Their evil was so great that God's glory had finally departed from the house of God.

v3 "And the glory of the God of Israel was gone up from the cherub, whereupon he was, to the threshold of the house. And he called to the man clothed with linen, which had the writer's inkhorn by his side;"

❷ God's Men (v. 4)

v4 "And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and

set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof."

Though God sent His angels to destroy the wicked, there was still a remnant of God's people who were holy and hated the sin of Israel. God commanded His angels to set a mark upon the foreheads of these holy men so that they would be preserved from His judgment.

❸ God's Judgment (v. 5-11)

v6 "Slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at my sanctuary. Then they began at the ancient men which were before the house."

In the eyes of God, the worst sins were committed by the 'ancient men', that is, the priests and the Levites. They were nearest to Him, serving in the sanctuary of God. This was why God's glory had departed from the sanctuary and His judgment had come upon the sins of the people. God is grieved when His people who are supposed to be the light of the world become the stumbling block of the world.

v9 "Then said he unto me, The iniquity of the house of Israel and Judah is exceeding great, and the land is full of blood, and the city full of perverseness: for they say, The LORD hath forsaken the earth, and the LORD seeth not."

Prayer Of The Day

Dearest God, please help me to be Your holy man in this unholy world.

Are You Displaying God's Glory?

Verse Of The Day

v18 "Then the glory of the LORD departed from off the threshold of the house, and stood over the cherubims."

❶ God's Glory Displayed (v. 1)

v1 "Then I looked, and, behold, in the firmament that was above the head of the cherubims there appeared over them as it were a sapphire stone, as the appearance of the likeness of a throne."

God displayed His holiness to Ezekiel with His appearance as the likeness of a sapphire stone, as well as a throne filled with glory and brightness. God's holiness demands that men repent of their sins, and display and reflect God's glory in their lives.

❷ God's Glory Dispersed (v. 2-17)

v2 "And he spake unto the man clothed with linen, and said, Go in between the wheels, even under the cherub, and fill thine hand with coals of fire from between the cherubims, and scatter them over the city. And he went in in my sight."

God purged the people of Israel of their sins by sending the mighty Babylonian army to burn and destroy the Lord's house,

the king's house and all the houses of Jerusalem. They also dispersed and scattered the people throughout the regions.

"And in the fifth month, on the seventh day of the month, which is the nineteenth year of king Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, came Nebuzaradan, captain of the guard, a servant of the king of Babylon, unto Jerusalem: And he burnt the house of the LORD, and the king's house, and all the houses of Jerusalem, and every great man's house burnt he with fire." (2 Kings 25:8-9)

❸ God's Glory Departed (v. 18-22)

v18 "Then the glory of the LORD departed from off the threshold of the house, and stood over the cherubims."

This was the worst time of the entire history of Israel — the glory of God departed from His house and His nation. God's glory gradually departed from the temple, because the Lord was patiently waiting for the people of Israel to repent of their sins. However, all the prophets, the priests and the people, except Ezekiel and the faithful remnant, refused to repent but continued in their sins.

v19 "And the cherubims lifted up their wings, and mounted up from the earth in my sight: when they went out, the wheels also were beside them, and every one stood at the door of the east gate of the LORD's house; and the glory of the God of Israel was over them above."

Prayer Of The Day

Dearest God, please help me to display and reflect Your glory.

How Is Your Heart Today?

Verse Of The Day

v19 "And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh:"

❶ Pure (v. 1-12)

v3 "Which say, It is not near; let us build houses: this city is the caldron, and we be the flesh."

The people of Israel continued in their sins as they believed that being God's people made them invincible. However, they were wrong as God allowed the Babylonians to invade and destroy them. One of the worst sins is the sin of self-deception. We may think we are safe, but in reality we are about to be judged and chastised by God for our deceitful hearts.

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" (Jeremiah 17:9)

❷ Patient (v. 13-16)

v13 "And it came to pass, when I prophesied, that Pelatiah the son of Benaiah died. Then fell I down upon my face, and cried with a loud voice, and said, Ah Lord GOD! Wilt thou make a full end of the remnant of Israel?"

When the wicked leader Pelatiah died, Ezekiel knew that God's judgment was upon Israel. He pleaded with God to spare the remnant of Israel. God promised Ezekiel that His "little sanctuary" or presence would always be with His people no matter how far they had been scattered. No matter how far we stray from God, the Lord is patient and longsuffering. He always waits for us to repent of our sins, and return to Him.

v16 "Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Although I have cast them far off among the heathen, and although I have scattered them among the countries, yet will I be to them as a little sanctuary in the countries where they shall come."

❸ Persistent (v. 17-25)

v17 "Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will even gather you from the people, and assemble you out of the countries where ye have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel."

God is persistent in His love. His desire is that one day, His people shall assemble in their own land, and have one heart, a new spirit and a heart of flesh within them.

v19 "And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh:"

Prayer Of The Day

Dearest God, please give me a pure, patient and persistent heart like Yours.

Are You In God's Will?

Verse Of The Day

v2 "Son of man, thou dwellest in the midst of a rebellious house, which have eyes to see, and see not; they have ears to hear, and hear not: for they are a rebellious house."

❶ The Word of God (v. 1-16)

v2 "Son of man, thou dwellest in the midst of a rebellious house, which have eyes to see, and see not; they have ears to hear, and hear not: for they are a rebellious house."

God spoke to Ezekiel to warn the people of Israel of the impending attack from the Babylonians because of their sins and rebellion. However, the people refused to believe him and continued in their sinful ways. Eventually the Babylonians devastated them — and they realized too late that Ezekiel had spoken the Word of God.

v3 "Therefore, thou son of man, prepare thee stuff for removing, and remove by day in their sight; and thou shalt remove from thy place to another place in their sight: it may be they will consider, though they be a rebellious house."

❷ The Wrath of God (v. 17-20)

v18 "Son of man, eat thy bread with quaking, and drink thy water with trembling and with carefulness;"

It was a terrible time for the people of Israel as the wrath of God came upon them. They had been the most powerful nation in the world under King Solomon, but now they were trembling in the hands of their enemies, the mighty Babylonians.

v20 "And the cities that are inhabited shall be laid waste, and the land shall be desolate; and ye shall know that I am the LORD."

❸ The Will of God (v. 21-28)

v25 "For I am the LORD: I will speak, and the word that I shall speak shall come to pass; it shall be no more prolonged: for in your days, O rebellious house, will I say the word, and will perform it, saith the Lord GOD."

The people of Israel never thought that God would allow their enemies to conquer them. They were too proud and complacent, and they refused to heed the many warnings of the prophet Ezekiel. Time and again, God has sent many prophets to warn the people of His wrath if they refuse to repent of their sins. Let us take heed of the Word of God and stay in the will of God, or His wrath shall be upon us.

v28 "Therefore say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; There shall none of my words be prolonged any more, but the word which I have spoken shall be done, saith the Lord GOD."

Prayer Of The Day

Dearest God, please help me to stay in Your perfect will.

Who Is A True Teacher?

Verse Of The Day

v2 "Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel that prophesy, and say thou unto them that prophesy out of their own hearts, Hear ye the word of the LORD;"

❶ The True Teacher (v. 1-2)

v2 "Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel that prophesy, and say thou unto them that prophesy out of their own hearts, Hear ye the word of the LORD;"

During the Old Testament, God spoke directly to the prophets. During the New Testament and till today, God speaks to pastors and teachers through the Bible, His written Word. Prophets, pastors and teachers must teach the Word of God truthfully and accurately to their people — nothing more and nothing less than His Word.

❷ The Thoughtless Teacher (v. 3-16)

v3 "Thus saith the Lord GOD; Woe unto the foolish prophets, that follow their own spirit, and have seen nothing!"

In order to win the hearts and minds of the people, the false prophets distorted the truth of God's Word and taught the people what they wanted to hear. God (through Ezekiel) described these false prophets as foolish — they thought themselves wise in the eyes of the people, but in the eyes of God, they were thoughtless and disobedient. They would be judged and condemned for their lies and false teachings.

v13 "Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; I will even rend it with a stormy wind in my fury; and there shall be an overflowing shower in mine anger, and great hailstones in my fury to consume it."

❸ The Two-Faced Teacher (v. 17-23)

v19 "And will ye pollute me among my people for handfuls of barley and for pieces of bread, to slay the souls that should not die, and to save the souls alive that should not live, by your lying to my people that hear your lies?"

The worst sins are committed by prophets, pastors and teachers who are commanded to teach God's truth, yet are guilty of false teaching. These two-faced teachers shall be severely punished by God as their motives are for their personal gain.

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (John 14:6)

Prayer Of The Day

Dearest God, please help me to discern the true teachers from the false ones.

Are You Among The Godly Few?

Verse Of The Day

v14 "Though these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they should deliver but their own souls by their righteousness, saith the Lord GOD."

❶ Compassion (v. 1-5)

v3 "Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their heart, and put the stumblingblock of their iniquity before their face: should I be enquired of at all by them?"

God was looking for compassion in the hearts of the people of Israel, especially the religious leaders. But instead He found them guilty of having idols in their hearts. The leaders were stumbling blocks who outwardly confessed their love for God and the people, but inwardly they had none.

❷ Confidence (v. 6-18)

v14 "Though these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they should deliver but their own souls by their righteousness, saith the Lord GOD."

God delivered Noah and his family from the great flood, Daniel from the lions' mouths and Job from despair and depression when all his possessions and loved ones were

destroyed — because of all three men's confidence in Him. However, the confidence of these men in their God could not deliver the people of Israel from God's judgment, because everyone must give their own account before God.

"...and Noah walked with God." (Genesis 6:9)

"...and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime." (Daniel 6:10)

"....and one that feared God, and eschewed evil." (Job 1:1)

"So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God." (Romans 14:12)

❸ Courage (v. 19-23)

v22 "Yet, behold, therein shall be left a remnant that shall be brought forth, both sons and daughters: behold, they shall come forth unto you, and ye shall see their way and their doings: and ye shall be comforted concerning the evil that I have brought upon Jerusalem, even concerning all that I have brought upon it."

Though the people of Israel time and again sinned against God, there were still a godly few who had the compassion, confidence and courage to stand up for Him.

Prayer Of The Day

Dearest God, please help me to be among the godly few in this ungodly world.

EZEKIEL 15

How Do You Trust God?

Verse Of The Day

v2 "Son of man, What is the vine tree more than any tree, or than a branch which is among the trees of the forest?"

❶ The Tree (v. 1-2)

v2 "Son of man, What is the vine tree more than any tree, or than a branch which is among the trees of the forest?"

The vine tree produces grapes, and here God compares Israel to one. As vine trees produce grapes, Israel must also produce its fruits. What kind of fruit is God expecting from Israel? God expects Israel to bear the fruit of His glory by being a great nation and a great blessing, that all nations come to know that the God of Israel is the true and living God.

"Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:" (Genesis 12:1-2)

❷ The Testimony (v. 3-5)

v4 "Behold, it is cast into the fire for fuel; the fire devoureth both the ends of it, and the midst of it is burned. Is it meet for any work?"

When vines no longer produce grapes, they are cast into the fire for fuel. When Israel no longer bears the testimony of God's glory, it will be judged and condemned. The church must also bear the testimony of God's glory by sharing the Gospel of Christ with the whole world — otherwise, God shall remove His glory from the church.

"That we should be to the praise of His glory, who first trusted in Christ." (Ephesians 1:12)

❸ The Trust (v. 6-8)

v7 "And I will set my face against them; they shall go out from one fire, and another fire shall devour them; and ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I set my face against them."

The Lord reminded the nation of Israel that unless they trusted Him in everything, they could do nothing for Him. Unless the church trusts God in everything, we can do nothing for Him.

"I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing." (John 15:5)

Prayer Of The Day

Dearest God, please help me to trust You in everything — whether big or small.

Who Are You?

Verse Of The Day

v62 "And I will establish my covenant with thee; and thou shalt know that I am the LORD:"

❶ The Unwanted (v. 1-14)

v3 "And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD unto Jerusalem; Thy birth and thy nativity is of the land of Canaan; thy father was an Amorite, and thy mother an Hittite."

Ezekiel prophesied that the city of Jerusalem was like an unwanted baby, despised and hated until God took her as His precious child. This is exactly what we are: sinners from our birth, because our first parents, Adam and Eve, disobeyed and sinned against God. However, God has a salvation plan for the entire human race by sending His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to die for our sins. On the third day, Jesus rose again, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

v8 "Now when I passed by thee, and looked upon thee, behold, thy time was the time of love; and I spread my skirt over thee, and covered thy nakedness: yea, I sware unto thee, and entered into a covenant with thee, saith the Lord GOD, and thou becamest mine."

❷ The Ungrateful (v. 15-59)

v15 "But thou didst trust in thine own beauty, and playedst the harlot because of thy renown, and pouredst out thy fornications on every one that passed by; his it was."

The holy God blessed the people of Jerusalem if they obeyed Him and lived a holy life. However, the people of Jerusalem soon became ungrateful as they grew proud and began to worship idols instead of the holy God. They committed immorality and wickedness, and were a total disgrace to the God who had loved and accepted them.

❸ The United (v. 60-63)

v60 "Nevertheless I will remember my covenant with thee in the days of thy youth, and I will establish unto thee an everlasting covenant."

Though the people of Jerusalem had time and again sinned against God, yet His everlasting covenant of love, mercy and grace was extended to them if they repented of their sins. Today, God's everlasting covenant of love, mercy and grace is also extended to us. We are saved by grace, called His children and reconciled with the Lord, if we repent of our sins and receive Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour.

v62 "And I will establish my covenant with thee; and thou shalt know that I am the LORD:"

Prayer Of The Day

Dearest God, thank You that I am Your precious child as I believe and trust in You.

Are You Humble?

Verse Of The Day

v24 "And all the trees of the field shall know that I the LORD have brought down the high tree, have exalted the low tree, have dried up the green tree, and have made the dry tree to flourish: I the LORD have spoken and have done it."

❶ God's People (v. 1-6)

v3 "And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; A great eagle with great wings, longwinged, full of feathers, which had divers colours, came unto Lebanon, and took the highest branch of the cedar:"

God's people Israel became proud and rebellious. Like the great eagle which took and cropped off the highest branch of the cedar, God allowed the Babylonians to attack, defeat and humble them.

v12 "Say now to the rebellious house, Know ye not what these things mean? tell them, Behold, the king of Babylon is come to Jerusalem, and hath taken the king thereof, and the princes thereof, and led them with him to Babylon;"

❷ God's Leader (v. 7-21)

v15 "But he rebelled against him in sending his

ambassadors into Egypt, that they might give him horses and much people. Shall he prosper? shall he escape that doeth such things? or shall he break the covenant, and be delivered?"

The king of Israel's rebellion led him to ask the king of Egypt for help instead of God. It is a tragedy when the leaders of God's people seek help from the world instead of Him.

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matthew 6:33)

❸ God's Son (v. 22-24)

v24 "And all the trees of the field shall know that I the LORD have brought down the high tree, have exalted the low tree, have dried up the green tree, and have made the dry tree to flourish: I the LORD have spoken and have done it."

God's Son, Jesus Christ, left the throne of glory and humbled Himself to die on the cross for the sins of the whole world. Like the low tree which was exalted, the Almighty God exalted the humility of His Son, and gave Him a name which is above every name.

"And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:" (Philippians 2:8-9)

Prayer Of The Day

Dearest God, please humble me as You humbled Yourself.

Do You Have A New Heart And Spirit?

Verse Of The Day

v31 "Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die, O house of Israel?"

❶ God Owns All Souls (v. 1-24)

v4 "Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die."

It is with great pain and grief that God allows people created in His image to suffer in the fires of hell because they refuse to acknowledge Him as their God and Creator. God loves all the people He creates, but He hates their sins. Every man is accountable to God for his own ways. The son will not bear the sins of his father, nor the father bear the sins of the son, but every man will bear his own sins and reap their consequences.

v9 "Hath walked in my statutes, and hath kept my judgments, to deal truly; he is just, he shall surely live, saith the Lord GOD."

❷ God's Way Is Not Man's Way (v. 25-30)

v25 "Yet ye say, The way of the Lord is not equal. Hear now, O house of Israel; Is not my way equal? are not your ways unequal?"

Many times we accuse God of being unfair when we witness disasters destroying thousands or millions of lives. We may not fully understand these tragedies, but let us remember that God never makes a single mistake. God's ways are higher than our ways. What matters most to God is that we believe in Him and obey His commandments. The consequence of man's sins is physical death, while the ultimate consequence of rejecting God is spiritual death in hell, forever separated from Him.

v26 "When a righteous man turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, and dieth in them; for his iniquity that he hath done shall he die."

❸ God Gives New Hearts (v. 31-32)

v31 "Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die, O house of Israel?"

God not only gives new hearts and spirits to all who believe in Him and obey His commandments, but He also gives them a place in heaven forever with Him the moment they die. God's greatest desire is for everyone to believe in and obey Him, as it grieves Him to condemn the wicked to an eternity in hell.

v32 "For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord GOD: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye."

Prayer Of The Day

Dearest God, please help me to believe in You and to have a new heart and spirit.

Who Is Your Mother?

Verse Of The Day

v2 "And say, What is thy mother? A lioness: she lay down among lions, she nourished her whelps among young lions."

❶ The Lioness (v. 1-9)

v2 "And say, What is thy mother? A lioness: she lay down among lions, she nourished her whelps among young lions."

Israel is compared to a lioness; her whelps (or cubs) were her kings and princes. When she grew wicked, her leaders also became wicked and God sent the Babylonians to destroy them. Indeed, mothers have a great influence on the character of their children. When mothers are godly, their children will most likely be godly. Conversely, when mothers are ungodly, their children will most likely follow.

v9 "And they put him in ward in chains, and brought him to the king of Babylon: they brought him into holds, that his voice should no more be heard upon the mountains of Israel."

❷ The Vine (v. 10-13)

v10 "Thy mother is like a vine in thy blood, planted by the waters: she was fruitful and full of branches by reason of many waters."

Israel is also seen as a vine, its leaders the branches. God blessed Israel when they were fruitful and godly. His fury came upon them when they turned away; their destruction by Babylon was entirely a result of their apostasy.

v12 "But she was plucked up in fury, she was cast down to the ground, and the east wind dried up her fruit: her strong rods were broken and withered; the fire consumed them."

❸ The Lamentation (v. 14)

v14 "And fire is gone out of a rod of her branches, which hath devoured her fruit, so that she hath no strong rod to be a sceptre to rule. This is a lamentation, and shall be for a lamentation."

God sent fire to burn the vine together with all her branches. There was great lamentation and grief as God was forced to destroy His own people. May our mothers raise children in godliness like the virtuous wife of Proverbs, instead of the lioness and the vine in the days of Ezekiel.

"Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her." (Proverbs 31:28)

Prayer Of The Day

Dearest God, please help me to be a godly parent for Your glory.

EZEKIEL 20

What Is Your Choice?

Verse Of The Day

v17 "Nevertheless mine eye spared them from destroying them, neither did I make an end of them in the wilderness."

❶ The Leaders (v. 1-17)

v3 "Son of man, speak unto the elders of Israel, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Are ye come to enquire of me? As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I will not be enquired of by you."

The elders of Israel pretended to enquire of God concerning His Word, yet without any desire to obey it. However, God was merciful and gracious and time and again spared them from total destruction.

v17 "Nevertheless mine eye spared them from destroying them, neither did I make an end of them in the wilderness."

❷ The Children (v. 18-32)

v18 "But I said unto their children in the wilderness, Walk ye not in the statutes of your fathers, neither observe their judgments, nor defile yourselves with their idols:"

Not only did Israelite adults rebel against God, but their children as well. It is important that parents not only teach their children of God and His Word, but apply God's Word in their daily lives so that their children emulate their godly examples.

v21 "Notwithstanding the children rebelled against me: they walked not in my statutes, neither kept my judgments to do them, which if a man do, he shall even live in them; they polluted my sabbaths: then I said, I would pour out my fury upon them, to accomplish my anger against them in the wilderness."

❸ The Families (v. 33-49)

v32 "And that which cometh into your mind shall not be at all, that ye say, We will be as the heathen, as the families of the countries, to serve wood and stone."

Instead of choosing to serve the Lord like Joshua and his family had done, the people of Israel and their families chose to serve wood and stone. Their downfall came when they chose to serve the creation rather than the Creator.

"And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." (Joshua 24:15)

Prayer Of The Day

Dearest God, please help me and my family to choose to serve the Lord, our Creator.

Are You On God's Side?

Verse Of The Day

v3 "And say to the land of Israel, Thus saith the LORD; Behold, I am against thee, and will draw forth my sword out of his sheath, and will cut off from thee the righteous and the wicked."

❶ God's Warning (v. 1-17)

v3 "And say to the land of Israel, Thus saith the LORD; Behold, I am against thee, and will draw forth my sword out of his sheath, and will cut off from thee the righteous and the wicked."

God warned the people of Israel to repent of their wickedness or He would be against them. The people thought that they were righteous because of their decent behaviour, but they were actually wicked in God's eyes because they had disobeyed Him. For the worst situation is to have God against us, and the best is to be on God's side.

"What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31)

❷ God's Wrath (v. 18-27)

v19 "Also, thou son of man, appoint thee two ways, that the sword of the king of Babylon may come:

both twain shall come forth out of one land: and choose thou a place, choose it at the head of the way to the city."

God's wrath was upon the people of Israel, and He punished them by allowing the armies of Babylon to invade and destroy the city of Jerusalem. His wrath remains on those who continually refuse to repent of their sins and wickedness — even those who call themselves His people.

v27 "I will overturn, overturn, overturn, it: and it shall be no more, until he come whose right it is; and I will give it him."

❸ God's Word (v. 28-32)

v32 "Thou shalt be for fuel to the fire; thy blood shall be in the midst of the land; thou shalt be no more remembered: for I the LORD have spoken it."

God's Word shall never return void. He shall always fulfil whatever He has said or promised. Time and again His people refused to heed His warnings and continued in their wickedness — until they were conquered for their disobedience.

"So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." (Isaiah 55:11)

Prayer Of The Day

Dearest God, please help me to be always on Your side.

EZEKIEL 22

Are You Standing Before The Lord?

Verse Of The Day

v30 "And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none."

❶ The People (v. 1-22)

v2 "Now, thou son of man, wilt thou judge, wilt thou judge the bloody city? yea, thou shalt shew her all her abominations."

Ezekiel warned the people of Israel to repent of their grievous sins and live a holy life. But they refused, and continued to make and worship all kinds of idols. They lived in open rebellion against the living God.

v3 "Then say thou, Thus saith the Lord GOD, The city sheddeth blood in the midst of it, that her time may come, and maketh idols against herself to defile herself."

❷ The Priests (v. 23-29)

v26 "Her priests have violated my law, and have profaned mine holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither

have they shewed difference between the unclean and the clean, and have hid their eyes from my sabbaths, and I am profaned among them."

Not only did the people of Israel sin against God, but even the priests, princes and prophets. The nation's disregard for God's holiness was total, and His name profaned instead of blessed.

v27 "Her princes in the midst thereof are like wolves ravening the prey, to shed blood, and to destroy souls, to get dishonest gain."

❸ The Prophet (v. 30-31)

v30 "And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none."

The holy God was looking for a man in all of Israel who would stand before Him in holiness, but He could not find any such man or woman. Only Ezekiel himself truly did so. Hence, God had to pour out His anger and judgment against the people of Israel.

v31 "Therefore have I poured out mine indignation upon them; I have consumed them with the fire of my wrath: their own way have I recompensed upon their heads, saith the Lord GOD."

Prayer Of The Day

Dearest God, please help me to be the man who is standing before You in holiness.

Have You Forgotten God?

Verse Of The Day

v35 "Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thou hast forgotten me, and cast me behind thy back, therefore bear thou also thy lewdness and thy whoredoms."

❶ Israel Forgot God (v. 1-10)

v4 "And the names of them were Aholah the elder, and Aholibah her sister: and they were mine, and they bare sons and daughters. Thus were their names; Samaria is Aholah, and Jerusalem Aholibah."

Aholah (or the people of Israel in Samaria) had forgotten the God who had delivered them from slavery in Egypt. Instead of worshipping the true and living God, they were worshipping the gods of the Assyrians, and committing both spiritual and physical adultery.

v5 "And Aholah played the harlot when she was mine; and she doted on her lovers, on the Assyrians her neighbours,"

❷ Judah Forgot God (v. 11-34)

v11 "And when her sister Aholibah saw this, she was more corrupt in her inordinate love than she, and in her whoredoms more than her sister in her whoredoms."

Not only had Aholah forgotten God, she had also influenced her younger sister, Aholibah (or the people of Judah in Jerusalem) to forget God. In fact, Aholibah's immorality far exceeded that of her elder sister! Instead of being examples of holiness and righteousness, the two sisters were examples of immorality and wickedness, and became stumbling blocks to the people of the world.

v12 "She doted upon the Assyrians her neighbours, captains and rulers clothed most gorgeously, horsemen riding upon horses, all of them desirable young men."

❸ All Have Forgotten God (v. 35-49)

v35 "Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thou hast forgotten me, and cast me behind thy back, therefore bear thou also thy lewdness and thy whoredoms."

Everyone had forgotten God, even His own people. In His holiness, God had to severely judge and condemn the people of the world for their sins. But there is hope for those who trust in God and acknowledge Him, as He stands ready to direct their ways and bless their lives.

"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Prayer Of The Day

Dearest God, please help me to trust in You, and acknowledge You in all my ways.

EZEKIEL 24

Will You Obey God?

Verse Of The Day

v24 "Thus Ezekiel is unto you a sign: according to all that he hath done shall ye do: and when this cometh, ye shall know that I am the Lord GOD."

❶ The Pot (v. 1-15)

v2 "Son of man, write thee the name of the day, even of this same day: the king of Babylon set himself against Jerusalem this same day."

God describes the city of Jerusalem as a boiling pot. The sins of the people of Jerusalem were like the scum in the pot, and He was about to boil and destroy the scum of their sins. Ezekiel and the people of Judah saw God's warnings come true in the form of the conquering Babylonian army.

v6 "Wherefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Woe to the bloody city, to the pot whose scum is therein, and whose scum is not gone out of it! bring it out piece by piece; let no lot fall upon it."

❷ The Pain (v. 16-18)

v16 "Son of man, behold, I take away from thee the desire of thine eyes with a stroke: yet neither shalt thou mourn nor weep, neither shall thy tears run down."

When God told Ezekiel that He would suddenly take the desire of his eyes, little did he realize that God meant to take his wife away from him. Ezekiel must have endured great pain and grief over the loss of his beloved wife, but he continued to obey God — for he had taught the people to obey God no matter what happened to them.

v18 "So I spake unto the people in the morning: and at even my wife died; and I did in the morning as I was commanded."

❸ The Punishment (v. 19-27)

v21 "Speak unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will profane my sanctuary, the excellency of your strength, the desire of your eyes, and that which your soul pitieth; and your sons and your daughters whom ye have left shall fall by the sword."

The people of Jerusalem thought that they could hide their sins by going to the sanctuary of God, but little did they know that God would also destroy His sanctuary. Being in the sanctuary or the church today cannot save you from His punishment — only His forgiveness, as proclaimed by Ezekiel, can do so.

v24 "Thus Ezekiel is unto you a sign: according to all that he hath done shall ye do: and when this cometh, ye shall know that I am the Lord GOD."

Prayer Of The Day

Dearest God, please help me to obey You no matter what happens to me.

EZEKIEL 25

Can You Escape God's Judgment?

Verse Of The Day

v11 "And I will execute judgments upon Moab; and they shall know that I am the LORD."

❶ The Ammonites Were Judged (v. 1-7)

v3 "And say unto the Ammonites, Hear the word of the Lord GOD; Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thou saidst, Aha, against my sanctuary, when it was profaned; and against the land of Israel, when it was desolate; and against the house of Judah, when they went into captivity;"

The Ammonites mocked God's chosen people as He judged and destroyed them for their disobedience and rebellion. However, the Ammonites were not spared as they too were punished by God.

❷ The Moabites and Edomites Were Judged (v. 8-14)

v11 "And I will execute judgments upon Moab; and they shall know that I am the LORD."

The Moabites and Edomites also set themselves up against Israel and were disobedient to God's warnings. In the end they were also judged and destroyed by the Almighty God.

v14 "And I will lay my vengeance upon Edom by the hand of my people Israel: and they shall do in Edom according to mine anger and according to my fury; and they shall know my vengeance, saith the Lord GOD."

❸ The Philistines Were Judged (v. 15-17)

v15 "Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because the Philistines have dealt by revenge, and have taken vengeance with a despiteful heart, to destroy it for the old hatred;"

The Philistines were old enemies of Israel and it was no surprise that God severely judged and punished them for their wicked and evil hearts. No one, not even God's chosen people or those claiming to be Christians, can disobey God and escape His anger and judgment. It is a fearful thing to fall into God's judgment.

"For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." (Hebrews 10:30-31)

Prayer Of The Day

Dearest God, please help me to trust and obey You, and escape Your fiery judgment.

EZEKIEL 26

Are You Under God's Protection?

Verse Of The Day

v21 "I will make thee a terror, and thou shalt be no more: though thou be sought for, yet shalt thou never be found again, saith the Lord GOD."

❶ God Rebuked Tyrus (v. 1-6)

v2 "Son of man, because that Tyrus hath said against Jerusalem, Aha, she is broken that was the gates of the people: she is turned unto me: I shall be replenished, now she is laid waste:"

The cities of Tyrus and Jerusalem were competing for trade and commerce in the region. When God rebuked and punished Jerusalem, the leaders of Tyrus thought they could dominate the economy of the entire area. But they too had sinned, and their own destruction would come shortly.

v3 "Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Tyrus, and will cause many nations to come up against thee, as the sea causeth his waves to come up."

❷ God Rejected Tyrus (v. 7-14)

v7 "For thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will bring upon Tyrus Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon, a king of

kings, from the north, with horses, and with chariots, and with horsemen, and companies, and much people."

God rejected the city of Tyrus because of its pride and wickedness. The Babylonians tore down their city walls and beautiful houses, plundered their treasures and possessions, and sent survivors of the war into exile.

v12 "And they shall make a spoil of thy riches, and make a prey of thy merchandise: and they shall break down thy walls, and destroy thy pleasant houses: and they shall lay thy stones and thy timber and thy dust in the midst of the water."

❸ God Removed Tyrus (v. 15-21)

v21 "I will make thee a terror, and thou shalt be no more: though thou be sought for, yet shalt thou never be found again, saith the Lord GOD."

The people of Tyrus refused to repent, and subsequently God allowed their enemies to remove them from the face of the earth. We can either trust and obey God and be under the shadow of His protection, or we can doubt and disobey Him and be in the path of His destruction.

"He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty." (Psalm 91:1)

Prayer Of The Day

Dearest God, please help me to trust and obey You, and abide under Your protection.

EZEKIEL 27

Are You Perfect?

Verse Of The Day

v3 "And say unto Tyrus, O thou that art situate at the entry of the sea, which art a merchant of the people for many isles, Thus saith the Lord GOD; O Tyrus, thou hast said, I am of perfect beauty."

❶ Perfect Tyrus (v. 1-11)

v3 "And say unto Tyrus, O thou that art situate at the entry of the sea, which art a merchant of the people for many isles, Thus saith the Lord GOD; O Tyrus, thou hast said, I am of perfect beauty."

People all over the world praised Tyrus for its "perfection". She was situated where every merchant and ship had to pass in order to reach the other side of the globe. Tyrus also had a strong fortress and army ready to defend her from all her enemies.

v11 "The men of Arvad with thine army were upon thy walls round about, and the Gammadims were in thy towers: they hanged their shields upon thy walls round about; they have made thy beauty perfect."

❷ Prosperous Tyrus (v. 12-25)

v12 "Tarshish was thy merchant by reason of the

multitude of all kind of riches; with silver, iron, tin, and lead, they traded in thy fairs."

As Tyrus became a superpower blessed with glory and riches, she became proud and soon forgot her Giver, the Almighty God, who had richly blessed her.

v25 "The ships of Tarshish did sing of thee in thy market: and thou wast replenished, and made very glorious in the midst of the seas."

❸ Proud Tyrus (v. 26-36)

v26 "Thy rowers have brought thee into great waters: the east wind hath broken thee in the midst of the seas."

God humbled proud Tyrus by sending the "east wind" of Babylon to destroy her. God makes us perfect through suffering, and Jesus Himself suffered and tasted death for us. He destroyed death itself, and all who believe in Him shall live forever with Him in heaven.

"But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings." (Hebrews 2:9-10)

Prayer Of The Day

Dearest God, please help me to be perfect through sufferings like You.

Are You God?

Verse Of The Day

v2 "Son of man, say unto the prince of Tyrus, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thine heart is lifted up, and thou hast said, I am a God, I sit in the seat of God, in the midst of the seas; yet thou art a man, and not God, though thou set thine heart as the heart of God:"

❶ The Pride (v. 1-6)

v2 "Son of man, say unto the prince of Tyrus, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thine heart is lifted up, and thou hast said, I am a God, I sit in the seat of God, in the midst of the seas; yet thou art a man, and not God, though thou set thine heart as the heart of God:"

What pride that the prince of Tyrus would claim that he was God, when he was just a creature of God! God created Tyrus with perfect beauty and wisdom, and blessed its leaders with riches and fame. But instead of gratitude to God, they tried to usurp His place.

v4 "With thy wisdom and with thine understanding thou hast gotten thee riches, and hast gotten gold and silver into thy treasures:"

❷ The Punishment (v. 7-19)

v14 "Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire."

Like Tyrus, the anointed cherub Lucifer was created with perfect beauty and wisdom. Yet he fell from grace because of his pride, and he became the Devil, or Satan. God punished both as no man or angel can claim to be God, except God Himself.

v17 "Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee."

❸ The People (v. 20-26)

v25 "Thus saith the Lord GOD; When I shall have gathered the house of Israel from the people among whom they are scattered, and shall be sanctified in them in the sight of the heathen, then shall they dwell in their land that I have given to my servant Jacob."

God promised the people of Israel that He would bring them back as a great nation. He would sanctify and bless them if they would humble themselves and trust and obey Him. God punishes the proud and arrogant but blesses the humble and meek.

Prayer Of The Day

Dearest God, I need You as You are my God and I am Your creation.

EZEKIEL 29

Do You Know The Saviour?

Verse Of The Day

v21 "In that day will I cause the horn of the house of Israel to bud forth, and I will give thee the opening of the mouth in the midst of them; and they shall know that I am the LORD."

❶ Self (v. 1-7)

v2 "Son of man, set thy face against Pharaoh king of Egypt, and prophesy against him, and against all Egypt:"

During the days of Ezekiel, Egypt was one of the superpowers of the world. But its ruler Pharaoh and his people had become self-centred, refusing to acknowledge that it was the true God of Israel who had prospered and blessed them. Like the great dragon, Egypt boasted that it had made the river for itself — when both dragon and river were created by God.

v3 "Speak, and say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, Pharaoh king of Egypt, the great dragon that lieth in the midst of his rivers, which hath said, My river is mine own, and I have made it for myself."

❷ Sword (v. 8-20)

v8 "Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will bring a sword upon thee, and cut off man and beast out of thee."

God used the sword, Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon, to attack and humble the self-centered Egyptians. All their wealth became mere "wages" for the Babylonian army.

v19 "Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will give the land of Egypt unto Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon; and he shall take her multitude, and take her spoil, and take her prey; and it shall be the wages for his army."

❸ Saviour (v. 21)

v21 "In that day will I cause the horn of the house of Israel to bud forth, and I will give thee the opening of the mouth in the midst of them; and they shall know that I am the LORD."

Ezekiel prophesied that one day, the horn of the house of Israel (or the horn of David) would bud, come forth and be ordained as a light in this dark and wicked world. An anointed Saviour would come, to deliver all who believe in Him from their sins.

"There will I make the horn of David to bud: I have ordained a lamp for mine anointed." (Psalm 132:17)

Prayer Of The Day

Dearest God, thank You that You are my precious Saviour now and forever.

Are You Powerful?

Verse Of The Day

v6 "Thus saith the LORD; They also that uphold Egypt shall fall; and the pride of her power shall come down: from the tower of Syene shall they fall in it by the sword, saith the Lord GOD."

❶ Egypt Became Powerful (v. 1-5)

v4 "And the sword shall come upon Egypt, and great pain shall be in Ethiopia, when the slain shall fall in Egypt, and they shall take away her multitude, and her foundations shall be broken down."

The Lord points to an end to Egypt's great military and economic power. Nations around the known world paid tribute to Egypt, buying its friendship and relying on its armies to defend them in time of need.

v5 "Ethiopia, and Libya, and Lydia, and all the mingled people, and Chub, and the men of the land that is in league, shall fall with them by the sword."

❷ Egypt Became Weak (v. 6-19)

v6 "Thus saith the LORD; They also that uphold Egypt shall fall; and the pride of her power shall come down: from the tower of Syene shall they fall in it by the sword, saith the Lord GOD."

God will never allow the people and the nations of this world to be proud and arrogant. Every superpower and great leader in history has been humbled by God.

v10 "Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will also make the multitude of Egypt to cease by the hand of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon."

❸ Egypt Became Nothing (v. 20-26)

v22 "Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against Pharaoh king of Egypt, and will break his arms, the strong, and that which was broken; and I will cause the sword to fall out of his hand."

The Babylonians attacked and scattered the Egyptians throughout the world. Throughout history, God has humbled every great empire — as the Egyptian, Babylonian, Persian, Greek, Roman, Ottoman, Mongolian and British empires have all shown.

v26 "And I will scatter the Egyptians among the nations, and disperse them among the countries; and they shall know that I am the LORD."

Prayer Of The Day

Dearest God, please humble me to know that I am nothing without You.

Are You The Greatest?

Verse Of The Day

v18 "To whom art thou thus like in glory and in greatness among the trees of Eden? yet shalt thou be brought down with the trees of Eden unto the nether parts of the earth: thou shalt lie in the midst of the uncircumcised with them that be slain by the sword. This is Pharaoh and all his multitude, saith the Lord GOD."

❶ The Greatness of Egypt (v. 1-9)

v2 "Son of man, speak unto Pharaoh king of Egypt, and to his multitude; Whom art thou like in thy greatness?"

Ezekiel is told to remind Egypt of the height from which it would fall. Pharaoh believed he led the world in wealth and power, but God would swiftly show him otherwise.

v5 "Therefore his height was exalted above all the trees of the field, and his boughs were multiplied, and his branches became long because of the multitude of waters, when he shot forth."

❷ The Pride of Egypt (v. 10-11)

v10 "Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thou

hast lifted up thyself in height, and he hath shot up his top among the thick boughs, and his heart is lifted up in his height;"

Pharaoh was not satisfied just to be the greatest king of the world; he wanted to be a god, its creator and maker. His ego could only be satisfied if all the people of the world worshipped him as their god and paid him tribute, honour and respect. This was why God had the Babylonians destroy and humble the Egyptians. They have never regained their former strength.

v11 "I have therefore delivered him into the hand of the mighty one of the heathen; he shall surely deal with him: I have driven him out for his wickedness."

❸ The Fall of Egypt (v. 12-18)

v18 "To whom art thou thus like in glory and in greatness among the trees of Eden? yet shalt thou be brought down with the trees of Eden unto the nether parts of the earth: thou shalt lie in the midst of the uncircumcised with them that be slain by the sword. This is Pharaoh and all his multitude, saith the Lord GOD."

Everyone who commits evil and wickedness and refuses to believe in the true and great God shall be judged and condemned to hell, regardless of his earthly greatness. God is not a respecter of nation or person.

Prayer Of The Day

Dearest God, please humble me to know that You are the only true and great God.

Are You God's Friend?

Verse Of The Day

v31 "Pharaoh shall see them, and shall be comforted over all his multitude, even Pharaoh and all his army slain by the sword, saith the Lord GOD."

❶ Lamentation For Egypt (v. 1-16)

v2 "Son of man, take up a lamentation for Pharaoh king of Egypt, and say unto him, Thou art like a young lion of the nations, and thou art as a whale in the seas: and thou camest forth with thy rivers, and troubledst the waters with thy feet, and fouledst their rivers."

The Almighty God revealed to Ezekiel that Egypt was His enemy and would soon be punished. Time and again Egypt had rebelled against God, and Ezekiel was to lament for Pharaoh as his kingdom went to destruction.

v11 "For thus saith the Lord GOD; The sword of the king of Babylon shall come upon thee."

❷ Wail For Egypt (v. 17-30)

v18 "Son of man, wail for the multitude of Egypt, and cast them down, even her, and the daughters of the

famous nations, unto the nether parts of the earth, with them that go down into the pit."

Again, God commanded Ezekiel to wail and lament for the Egyptians that they would repent of their sins and believe in Him. Like the Egyptians, unbelievers often refuse to repent and choose to enjoy the pleasures of their sins. Hence, the Almighty God will condemn them into the pits of hell on Judgment Day.

v21 "The strong among the mighty shall speak to him out of the midst of hell with them that help him: they are gone down, they lie uncircumcised, slain by the sword."

❸ Comfort For Egypt (v. 31-32)

v31 "Pharaoh shall see them, and shall be comforted over all his multitude, even Pharaoh and all his army slain by the sword, saith the Lord GOD."

Instead of repenting, Pharaoh perversely took comfort that the Babylonians and the rest of his enemies would also be slain by the sword and condemned to hell.

v32 "For I have caused my terror in the land of the living: and he shall be laid in the midst of the uncircumcised with them that are slain with the sword, even Pharaoh and all his multitude, saith the Lord GOD."

Prayer Of The Day

Dearest God, thank You for being our Friend as You preserve and protect us.

Are You The Faithful Watchman?

Verse Of The Day

v3 "If when he seeth the sword come upon the land, he blow the trumpet, and warn the people;"

❶ The Faithful Watchman (v. 1-4)

v3 "If when he seeth the sword come upon the land, he blow the trumpet, and warn the people;"

Christians today are like watchmen in the days of the prophet Ezekiel. The faithful watchmen are those who blow the trumpet and warn the people that if they refuse to repent of their sins and believe in the true and living God, they will perish in hell the moment they die.

v4 "Then whosoever heareth the sound of the trumpet, and taketh not warning; if the sword come, and take him away, his blood shall be upon his own head."

❷ The Unfaithful Watchman (v. 5-19)

v6 "But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand."

God pronounced that the unfaithful watchmen who refused to blow the trumpet would have the blood of the unrepentant on their hands, for they have perished through the watchmen's disobedience.

v8 "When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand."

❸ The Holy Judge (v. 20-33)

v20 "Yet ye say, The way of the Lord is not equal. O ye house of Israel, I will judge you every one after his ways."

Instead of repenting, the people of Israel falsely accused God of being unfair. Subsequently God's judgments came and many were destroyed, and Israel realized that Ezekiel was indeed a prophet sent by the Almighty God. The Lord is fair and He shall judge the sins and wickedness of every man and woman.

v33 "And when this cometh to pass, (lo, it will come,) then shall they know that a prophet hath been among them."

Prayer Of The Day

Dearest God, please help me to be Your faithful watchman.

EZEKIEL 34

Do You Know The True Shepherd?

Verse Of The Day

v2 "Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD unto the shepherds; Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! should not the shepherds feed the flocks?"

❶ The Selfless Shepherd (v. 1-10)

v2 "Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD unto the shepherds; Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! should not the shepherds feed the flocks?"

Instead of feeding the flocks, the shepherds of Israel fed themselves! These were the false prophets of God who preached and prophesied God's Word for their own selfish gain. They served God with the motive of what they could get out of their service instead of selflessly honouring Him. Today, we are also experiencing the same attitude from false pastors who preach for themselves instead of the salvation of people, that they may come to know the Lord Jesus and receive Him as their Saviour and Shepherd.

❷ The Seeking Shepherd (v. 11-19)

v11 "For thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I, even I, will both search my sheep, and seek them out."

Ezekiel, like the Lord GOD, was the true shepherd who searched out and sought to save the lost sheep of Israel. Like him, the true pastor will search and seek for lost souls and share with them the Gospel, that they receive Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord.

v12 "As a shepherd seeketh out his flock in the day that he is among his sheep that are scattered; so will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day."

❸ The Serving Shepherd (v. 20-31)

v23 "And I will set up one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them, even my servant David; he shall feed them, and he shall be their shepherd."

God's promise to send David referred to none other than the Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd who shall feed His sheep or the people of God. He will feed them with the Word of God, and they shall never be hungry or thirsty again. This Shepherd came not to be served but to serve, and to die for the sins of the whole world. Whosoever believes in Him will not perish in hell, but live forever with Him in heaven.

v31 "And ye my flock, the flock of my pasture, are men, and I am your God, saith the Lord GOD."

Prayer Of The Day

Dearest God, thank You for being my true Shepherd and Saviour.

EZEKIEL 35

Do You Have God's Everlasting Love?

Verse Of The Day

v13 "Thus with your mouth ye have boasted against me, and have multiplied your words against me: I have heard them."

❶ Perpetual Hatred (v. 1-8)

v2 "Son of man, set thy face against mount Seir, and prophesy against it,"

The Almighty God spoke through the prophet Ezekiel pronouncing judgement upon the Edomites of Mount Seir, descendants of Jacob's brother Esau and a long-time enemy of Israel. God pronounced severe judgement upon them because they continued to hate and harm His chosen people Israel. Similarly, God shall judge those who persecute Christians because they are His children.

v5 "Because thou hast had a perpetual hatred, and hast shed the blood of the children of Israel by the force of the sword in the time of their calamity, in the time that their iniquity had an end:"

❷ Perpetual Desolation (v. 9-12)

v9 "I will make thee perpetual desolations, and thy cities shall not return: and ye shall know that I am the LORD."

God severely punished Edom and until today, the region remains a wasteland with few inhabitants. The Lord is not mocked and whoever mocks God's people are actually mocking Him. His punishment will eventually come upon them.

v11 "Therefore, as I live, saith the Lord GOD, I will even do according to thine anger, and according to thine envy which thou hast used out of thy hatred against them; and I will make myself known among them, when I have judged thee."

❸ Perpetual Love (v. 13-15)

v13 "Thus with your mouth ye have boasted against me, and have multiplied your words against me: I have heard them."

The people of Mount Seir were proud and boastful, and they thought they could live without God. God heard their boasting and He severely judged and punished them. When we humble ourselves and trust in God, we shall be under His everlasting love and protection. But if we are proud and boastful and refuse to believe in God, we shall be under His perpetual judgement and condemnation.

v15 "As thou didst rejoice at the inheritance of the house of Israel, because it was desolate, so will I do unto thee: thou shalt be desolate, O mount Seir, and all Idumea, even all of it: and they shall know that I am the LORD."

Prayer Of The Day

Dearest God, thank You for Your everlasting love and protection.

EZEKIEL 36

Are You Great?

Verse Of The Day

v23 "And I will sanctify my great name, which was profaned among the heathen, which ye have profaned in the midst of them; and the heathen shall know that I am the LORD, saith the Lord GOD, when I shall be sanctified in you before their eyes."

❶ The House of God (v. 1-15)

v1 "Also, thou son of man, prophesy unto the mountains of Israel, and say, Ye mountains of Israel, hear the word of the LORD:"

The people of Israel are not only compared to mountains, but they are the house or the family of the Almighty God. God spoke through the prophet Ezekiel that any nation or people who attack His house or family would be destroyed by the Lord Himself.

v12 "Yea, I will cause men to walk upon you, even my people Israel; and they shall possess thee, and thou shalt be their inheritance, and thou shalt no more henceforth bereave them of men."

❷ The Holiness of God (v. 16-24)

v22 "Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; I do not this for your sakes, O

house of Israel, but for mine holy name's sake, which ye have profaned among the heathen, whither ye went."

God chose the people of Israel not because of who they were or what they had done, but because He loved them. Though they sinned against God time and again, yet for the sake of His holy and great name, God continually forgave and sanctified them in His holiness.

v23 "And I will sanctify my great name, which was profaned among the heathen, which ye have profaned in the midst of them; and the heathen shall know that I am the LORD, saith the Lord GOD, when I shall be sanctified in you before their eyes."

❸ The Heart of God (v. 25-38)

v26 "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh."

God is so good to His people that He promises a new heart and a new spirit that they can live a new life serving Him. When we believe in the true and living God and become His people, He shall fulfil whatever He says.

v36 "Then the heathen that are left round about you shall know that I the LORD build the ruined places, and plant that that was desolate: I the LORD have spoken it, and I will do it."

Prayer Of The Day

Dearest God, thank You that I am great and holy because You are great and holy.

EZEKIEL 37

Can The Dead Live?

Verse Of The Day

v5 "Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live:"

❶ The Dead Live (v. 1-10)

v3 "And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest."

The Lord GOD brought Ezekiel to an open valley full of dry bones, and asked him whether those dry bones could live. This man of God knew that with the Lord nothing is impossible, and bringing the bones to life was well within His power. God but spoke to the dry bones — and then breath entered them and they came to life.

v5 "Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live:"

❷ The Nation Lives (v. 11-14)

v11 "Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts."

The Lord GOD showed Ezekiel the dry bones of Israel, and again, asked him whether the destroyed house of Israel could live again. Again, Ezekiel believed that with God nothing is impossible. God indeed restored His spirit to the people of Israel, and brought them back to life in Himself.

v14 "And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken it, and performed it, saith the LORD."

❸ The LORD Lives (v. 15-28)

v24 "And David my servant shall be king over them; and they all shall have one shepherd: they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them."

That one shepherd is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ. One day, the Lord shall reign forever, and everyone who believes in Him shall live and reign with Him for evermore.

v26 "Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them: and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore."

Prayer Of The Day

Dearest God, thank You for saving my soul; I once was dead spiritually, but now I live. Yet it is not I, but You who lives in me.

EZEKIEL 38

How Great Is God?

Verse Of The Day

v23 "Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the LORD."

❶ God is All-Knowing (v. 1-13)

v2 "Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him,"

God told the prophet Ezekiel that in the last days, Gog, Magog, Meshech, Tubal, Sheba, Dedan, Tarshish and other great leaders will form an alliance to attack Israel. They would take away Israel's wealth, cattle and possessions, and destroy its land and kill its people.

v13 "Sheba, and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof, shall say unto thee, Art thou come to take a spoil? hast thou gathered thy company to take a prey? to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil?"

❷ God is In Control (v. 14-15)

v14 "Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say unto

Gog, Thus saith the Lord GOD; In that day when my people of Israel dwelleth safely, shalt thou not know it?"

The Lord allows these countries from the north to invade Israel in order to humble the people of Israel, and let them know that the Lord God is in control of everything. He has the right to punish His own people for their unbelief and disobedience.

v15 "And thou shalt come from thy place out of the north parts, thou, and many people with thee, all of them riding upon horses, a great company, and a mighty army:"

❸ God is Great (v. 16-23)

v16 "And thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the latter days, and I will bring thee against my land, that the heathen may know me, when I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog, before their eyes."

Many people in modern Israel do not believe in God, but one day they shall believe. God shall send the mighty nations to humble Israel, so that everyone (not just Israel's people) will know that the God of Israel is the one and only God, and there is none beside Him.

v23 "Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the LORD."

Prayer Of The Day

Dearest and greatest God, please humble me to know that You are the one and only Lord.

Do You Know The Holy God?

Verse Of The Day

v7 "So will I make my holy name known in the midst of my people Israel; and I will not let them pollute my holy name any more: and the heathen shall know that I am the LORD, the Holy One in Israel."

❶ God's Holy Name (v. 1-7)

v1 "Therefore, thou son of man, prophesy against Gog, and say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal:"

God was against Gog because the people of Gog were unholy before Him — however, the sad truth was that even His own people were unholy. This was why God sent countless prophets to urge His people to leave their lives of sin and return to holiness.

v7 "So will I make my holy name known in the midst of my people Israel; and I will not let them pollute my holy name any more: and the heathen shall know that I am the LORD, the Holy One in Israel."

❷ God's Holy Work (v. 8-16)

v8 "Behold, it is come, and it is done, saith the Lord GOD; this is the day whereof I have spoken."

Nothing can hinder God's holy work. He shall destroy the people of Gog for their wickedness and bury them forever in hell. Many times, it seems that the wicked prosper and enjoy life on earth; but God is not mocked, as He shall surely judge and condemn them. They will suffer in the fiery pits of hell for all eternity.

v11 "And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will give unto Gog a place there of graves in Israel, the valley of the passengers on the east of the sea: and it shall stop the noses of the passengers: and there shall they bury Gog and all his multitude: and they shall call it The valley of Hamon-gog."

❸ God's Holy Spirit (v. 17-29)

v25 "Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Now will I bring again the captivity of Jacob, and have mercy upon the whole house of Israel, and will be jealous for my holy name;"

Though God chastised the people of Israel, He remained willing to pour His Holy Spirit and mercy upon the remnant of His people who chose to repent of their sins and be holy before Him.

v29 "Neither will I hide my face any more from them: for I have poured out my spirit upon the house of Israel, saith the Lord GOD."

Prayer Of The Day

Dearest God, please help me to be holy as You are holy.

Are You Discouraged?

Verse Of The Day

v2 "In the visions of God brought he me into the land of Israel, and set me upon a very high mountain, by which was as the frame of a city on the south."

❶ Visions of God (v. 1-2)

v1 "In the five and twentieth year of our captivity, in the beginning of the year, in the tenth day of the month, in the fourteenth year after that the city was smitten, in the selfsame day the hand of the LORD was upon me, and brought me thither."

Ezekiel had been taken as a prisoner to Babylon, and the detailed visions of a new temple were an incredible comfort and encouragement to him. The original temple in Israel lay in ruins, but God's glorious new temple (where Jesus Christ will reign during His Millennial kingdom) was still to come.

v2 "In the visions of God brought he me into the land of Israel, and set me upon a very high mountain, by which was as the frame of a city on the south."

❷ Temple of God (v. 3-43)

v3 "And he brought me thither, and, behold, there was a man, whose appearance was like the appearance of

brass, with a line of flax in his hand, and a measuring reed; and he stood in the gate."

God showed Ezekiel a man, who in turn showed him the new temple of God. Ezekiel was to declare to the people of Israel the new temple he had seen, and encourage them to trust God in spite of their intense suffering in the hands of the Babylonians. Ezekiel comforted them that one day, those who believe in the true God will dwell in His new temple and be with Him eternally.

v4 "And the man said unto me, Son of man, behold with thine eyes, and hear with thine ears, and set thine heart upon all that I shall shew thee; for to the intent that I might shew them unto thee art thou brought hither; declare all that thou seest to the house of Israel."

❸ Singers of God (v. 44-49)

v44 "And without the inner gate were the chambers of the singers in the inner court, which was at the side of the north gate; and their prospect was toward the south: one at the side of the east gate having the prospect toward the north."

There shall be singers in the new temple as well as in Heaven, the home of God. Music and singing are integral to His praise and worship. Through song and melody we express our thankfulness and gratitude to God for who He is and what He has done in our lives.

Prayer Of The Day

Dearest God, please encourage me to know that You are with me now and forever.

Are You The Temple of God?

Verse Of The Day

v4 "So he measured the length thereof, twenty cubits; and the breadth, twenty cubits, before the temple: and he said unto me, This is the most holy place."

❶ The Command (v. 1-6)

v4 "So he measured the length thereof, twenty cubits; and the breadth, twenty cubits, before the temple: and he said unto me, This is the most holy place."

God told Ezekiel that the place he stood was the Most Holy Place in the temple, and that he must accordingly be holy there. When we believe and receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our personal Saviour, our body becomes the temple of God because the Holy Spirit indwells us. This is why we must flee from sins and be holy before our holy God.

"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?" (1 Corinthians 6:19)

❷ The Chambers (v. 7-17)

v7 "And there was an enlarging, and a winding about still upward to the side chambers: for the winding about of the house went still upward round about the

house: therefore the breadth of the house was still upward, and so increased from the lowest chamber to the highest by the midst."

God showed Ezekiel the highest as well as the lowest chamber. It was a reminder to Ezekiel that there will be high and low points of our service to God. The highest point is when we behold and worship God, while the lowest point is when we sin against Him.

"One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in His temple." (Psalm 27:4)

❸ The Cherubs (v. 18-26)

v18 "And it was made with cherubims and palm trees, so that a palm tree was between a cherub and a cherub; and every cherub had two faces;"

The cherubims, which are angels of God guarding His presence, had two faces. One was the face of a man (the symbol of God becoming man), while the other was that of a young lion (symbolic of God as the King of kings and the Lord of lords).

v19 "So that the face of a man was toward the palm tree on the one side, and the face of a young lion toward the palm tree on the other side: it was made through all the house round about."

Prayer Of The Day

Dearest God, please help me to be holy as I am the temple of Your Holy Ghost.

Are You Separated?

Verse Of The Day

v20 "He measured it by the four sides: it had a wall round about, five hundred reeds long, and five hundred broad, to make a separation between the sanctuary and the profane place."

❶ The Holy Chambers (v. 1-13)

v13 "Then said he unto me, The north chambers and the south chambers, which are before the separate place, they be holy chambers, where the priests that approach unto the LORD shall eat the most holy things: there shall they lay the most holy things, and the meat offering, and the sin offering, and the trespass offering; for the place is holy.

God commanded Ezekiel to warn the priests to keep all the chambers holy and separated from any unholy things. They had to ensure that all the offerings were holy before God, including the place of sacrifice. Likewise, let us be holy in our speech and deed, and be separated from those who are unholy. We are the sons and daughters of a holy God.

"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father

unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." (2 Corinthians 6:17-18)

❷ The Holy Garments (v. 14-18)

v14 "When the priests enter therein, then shall they not go out of the holy place into the utter court, but there they shall lay their garments wherein they minister; for they are holy; and shall put on other garments, and shall approach to those things which are for the people."

God commanded Ezekiel that the priests' garments could only be worn in the holy chambers, and they would have to put on other garments when they left the chambers. Our lives, like the priests' holy garments, must be holy and worthy before God, as we study the Bible, pray and walk with our holy God.

"Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy." (Revelation 3:4)

❸ The Holy Sanctuary (v. 19-20)

v20 "He measured it by the four sides: it had a wall round about, five hundred reeds long, and five hundred broad, to make a separation between the sanctuary and the profane place."

Just like the sanctuary of God must be separated from the profane place, our lives must be separated from evil and wickedness in order for us to be holy.

Prayer Of The Day

Dearest God, please separate me from evil that I may be holy before You.

Will God Accept You?

Verse Of The Day

v27 "And when these days are expired, it shall be, that upon the eighth day, and so forward, the priests shall make your burnt offerings upon the altar, and your peace offerings; and I will accept you, saith the Lord GOD."

❶ The Glory of God (v. 1-6)

v2 "And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east: and his voice was like a noise of many waters: and the earth shined with his glory."

The glory of the God of Israel will return when the people of Israel become holy and acceptable to Him. The greatest joy of God and His people is when the glory of God fills the house of God, with His people gathering together in worship. True worship is worship of the holy God in truth, spirit, unity, love and fellowship.

v5 "So the spirit took me up, and brought me into the inner court; and, behold, the glory of the LORD filled the house."

❷ The Law of God (v. 7-17)

v12 "This is the law of the house; Upon the top of the

mountain the whole limit thereof round about shall be most holy. Behold, this is the law of the house."

The law of God's house set a most holy place, which reminded the people of the need for obedience. A holy God demands a holy people.

❸ The Altar of God (v. 18-27)

v27 "And when these days are expired, it shall be, that upon the eighth day, and so forward, the priests shall make your burnt offerings upon the altar, and your peace offerings; and I will accept you, saith the Lord GOD."

The glory of the God of Israel will return when the people of Israel offer not only the dead sacrifices of their burnt and peace offerings, but their lives as living sacrifices upon the altar of God. This is the only way for them to be holy and acceptable before Him, and the only possible way they can reciprocate their love, gratitude and thanksgiving to Him, through their Saviour Jesus Christ.

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." (Romans 12:1-2)

Prayer Of The Day

Dearest God, please accept me as I offer myself as a living sacrifice before You.

Are You The Son of God?

Verse Of The Day

v15 "But the priests the Levites, the sons of Zadok, that kept the charge of my sanctuary when the children of Israel went astray from me, they shall come near to me to minister unto me, and they shall stand before me to offer unto me the fat and the blood, saith the Lord GOD:"

❶ The Sons of Israel (v. 1-14)

v6 "And thou shalt say to the rebellious, even to the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; O ye house of Israel, let it suffice you of all your abominations,"

God warned Israel to repent of all their abominations and sins, or He would continue to judge, punish and shame them. All the people of Israel, including the priests (except for the sons of Zadok) had grievously disobeyed Him.

v13 "And they shall not come near unto me, to do the office of a priest unto me, nor to come near to any of my holy things, in the most holy place: but they shall bear their shame, and their abominations which they have committed."

❷ The Sons of Zadok (v. 15-16)

v15 "But the priests the Levites, the sons of Zadok,

that kept the charge of my sanctuary when the children of Israel went astray from me, they shall come near to me to minister unto me, and they shall stand before me to offer unto me the fat and the blood, saith the Lord GOD:"

Only the sons of Zadok among all the priests of Israel could come near and stand before God, and minister and offer sacrifices to Him. They alone had kept themselves holy and blameless.

v16 "They shall enter into my sanctuary, and they shall come near to my table, to minister unto me, and they shall keep my charge."

❸ The Sons of God (v. 17-31)

v28 "And it shall be unto them for an inheritance: I am their inheritance: and ye shall give them no possession in Israel: I am their possession."

The reward of the sons of Zadok was God as their inheritance and possession. God Himself is our inheritance and possession — we become the sons of God if we confess and repent of our sins, and believe and receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our personal Saviour.

"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:" (John 1:12)

Prayer Of The Day

Dearest God, thank You for accepting me as Your son.

EZEKIEL 45

Are You Honest?

Verse Of The Day

v10 "Ye shall have just balances, and a just ephah, and a just bath."

❶ Honest Division (v. 1-8)

v1 "Moreover, when ye shall divide by lot the land for inheritance, ye shall offer an oblation unto the LORD, an holy portion of the land: the length shall be the length of five and twenty thousand reeds, and the breadth shall be ten thousand. This shall be holy in all the borders thereof round about."

God told Ezekiel to divide the land for inheritance by lot, and to do so in honesty and fairness. The works of God are great and honourable — we must serve Him with honesty and fairness, or our works are in vain.

"The works of the LORD are great, sought out of all them that have pleasure therein. His work is honourable and glorious: and his righteousness endureth for ever." (Psalm 111:2-3)

❷ Honest Dealing (v. 9-12)

v9 "Thus saith the Lord GOD; Let it suffice you, O princes of Israel: remove violence and spoil, and

execute judgment and justice, take away your exactions from my people, saith the Lord GOD."

The princes of Israel were dishonest in their dealings as they deceived and cheated the people of their land and money. God warned them to confess and repent of their greed and deceit or face His punishment. It is a sad truth that God's people are fully capable of being dishonest and unfair. This brings disgrace and shame to God's holy name, and is a stumbling block to unbelievers.

v10 "Ye shall have just balances, and a just ephah, and a just bath."

❸ Honest Discipline (v. 13-25)

v21 "In the first month, in the fourteenth day of the month, ye shall have the passover, a feast of seven days; unleavened bread shall be eaten."

Christ was the Passover who sacrificed Himself on the cross for our sins, so that we can be righteous before a holy God. However, when we sin against God by deceiving and cheating others, Christ shall judge and discipline us for our good and for His glory.

"Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:" (1 Corinthians 5:7)

Prayer Of The Day

Dearest God, please help me to be honest for Your honour and glory.

EZEKIEL 46

How Do You Worship The Lord?

Verse Of The Day

v3 "Likewise the people of the land shall worship at the door of this gate before the LORD in the sabbaths and in the new moons."

❶ Daily (v. 1-8)

v2 "And the prince shall enter by the way of the porch of that gate without, and shall stand by the post of the gate, and the priests shall prepare his burnt offering and his peace offerings, and he shall worship at the threshold of the gate: then he shall go forth; but the gate shall not be shut until the evening."

The holy God through Ezekiel commanded His princes, priests and people to worship Him in the Sabbaths and the new moons. This weekly worship included the people offering burnt and peace offerings to God, for His great mercies that they were not consumed but able to live for His glory and honour. Today we worship God not just weekly but daily, thanking Him for His abundant mercies and amazing grace.

v3 "Likewise the people of the land shall worship at the door of this gate before the LORD in the sabbaths and in the new moons."

❷ Decently (v. 9-15)

v9 "But when the people of the land shall come

before the LORD in the solemn feasts, he that entereth in by the way of the north gate to worship shall go out by the way of the south gate; and he that entereth by the way of the south gate shall go forth by the way of the north gate: he shall not return by the way of the gate whereby he came in, but shall go forth over against it."

Everyone who came in by the north gate to worship the Lord had to go out by the south gate, and those who came in by the south gate had to go out by the north gate. The worship of the Lord must be done decently and in order, as our God is a God of order.

"Let all things be done decently and in order."
(1 Corinthians 14:40)

❸ Diligently (v. 16-24)

v18 "Moreover the prince shall not take of the people's inheritance by oppression, to thrust them out of their possession; but he shall give his sons inheritance out of his own possession: that my people be not scattered every man from his possession."

God warned the princes not to take the people's inheritance by oppression or force, but that they too would have to work diligently for their possessions — which would fairly pass on to their sons.

"He that diligently seeketh good procureth favour: but he that seeketh mischief, it shall come unto him."
(Proverbs 11:27)

Prayer Of The Day

Dearest God, please help me to worship you daily, decently and diligently.

EZEKIEL 47

Do You Know The Great God?

Verse Of The Day

v23 "And it shall come to pass, that in what tribe the stranger sojourneth, there shall ye give him his inheritance, saith the Lord GOD."

❶ He Provides (v. 1-5)

v1 "Afterward he brought me again unto the door of the house; and, behold, waters issued out from under the threshold of the house eastward: for the forefront of the house stood toward the east, and the waters came down from under from the right side of the house, at the south side of the altar."

Water flowed out from the house of God and flooded the entire place. The waters represent the Word of God, and He shall abundantly provide. All who trust and believe in Him and His Word shall never thirst.

"But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life." (John 4:14)

❷ He Preserves (v. 6-12)

v9 "And it shall come to pass, that every thing that liveth, which moveth, whithersoever the rivers shall

come, shall live: and there shall be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters shall come thither: for they shall be healed; and every thing shall live whither the river cometh."

Every living creature will be healed and preserved by the waters flowing from the house of the Lord. God's Word shall not return empty, but it shall accomplish God's purpose of healing and preserving lives.

"So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." (Isaiah 55:11)

❸ He Protects (v. 13-23)

v23 "And it shall come to pass, that in what tribe the stranger sojourneth, there shall ye give him his inheritance, saith the Lord GOD."

The great God not only gave the inheritance of land to the people of Israel, but He also gave to foreigners who had children among the people. God commanded the people of Israel to provide for and protect them with love, generosity and hospitality.

"Let brotherly love continue. Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." (Hebrews 13:1-2)

Prayer Of The Day

Dearest God, thank You for your greatness as You provide, preserve and protect.

Are You On The Lord's Side?

Verse Of The Day

v35 "It was round about eighteen thousand measures: and the name of the city from that day shall be, The LORD is there."

❶ The Lord Supplies (v. 1-11)

v1 "Now these are the names of the tribes. From the north end to the coast of the way of Hethlon, as one goeth to Hamath, Hazarenan, the border of Damascus northward, to the coast of Hamath; for these are his sides east and west; a portion for Dan."

The Lord supplied and rewarded all the tribes of the nation of Israel. But among the priestly Levites, God only supplied and rewarded the priests of the sons of Zadok. They had remained on God's side, while everyone else had departed from His service.

v11 "It shall be for the priests that are sanctified of the sons of Zadok; which have kept my charge, which went not astray when the children of Israel went astray, as the Levites went astray."

❷ The Lord Sanctifies (v. 12-20)

v12 "And this oblation of the land that is offered shall be unto them a thing most holy by the border of the Levites."

God sanctified the land on two conditions — that it not be sold or exchanged for anything, and that its inhabitants live holy lives. They failed, and God punished them by sending their enemies to defeat them and occupy their land. Today Israel has been re-established but is still fighting for its land. Though successful for the time being its efforts will ultimately be in vain, unless its people believe in the true God.

v14 "And they shall not sell of it, neither exchange, nor alienate the firstfruits of the land: for it is holy unto the LORD."

❸ The Lord Stays (v. 21-35)

v35 "It was round about eighteen thousand measures: and the name of the city from that day shall be, The LORD is there."

Ezekiel trusted the Lord. True to Himself, the Lord stayed with Ezekiel from the beginning to the end of his life and ministry. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, the book of his prophecies begins with visions of God's powerful presence even by the Babylonian river of Chebar, and ends with a holy city appropriately named "The LORD is there".

"Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, in the fifth day of the month, as I was among the captives by the river of Chebar, that the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God." (Ezekiel 1:1)

Prayer Of The Day

Dearest God, thank You that I am on Your side.

PART 2

Daniel

Are You The Man?

Verse Of The Day

v8 "But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself."

❶ The Man of Purpose (v. 1-8)

v8 "But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself..."

Daniel was a prisoner of the king of Babylon, yet he purposed in his heart that he would not sin against God by following the ways of the Babylonians — even if it cost him his life.

We may be in a situation where we are tempted to smoke and drink because our friends are doing so. However, we should purpose in our hearts that we refrain from smoking and drinking, because we are the temples of the Holy Ghost, and such destructive habits are harmful to our health as well as our Christian testimony.

"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?" (1 Corinthians 6:19)

❷ The Man of Persistence (v. 9-16)

v10 "And the prince of the eunuchs said unto Daniel, I fear my lord the king, who hath appointed your meat and your drink: for why should he see your faces worse liking than the children which are of your sort? then shall ye make me endanger my head to the king."

Daniel was a man of persistence as he persuaded the chief eunuch to let him and his fellow prisoners eat pulses (that is, beans) instead of the king's meat. The eunuch was risking his life; he could have been beheaded if Daniel and his fellow prisoners became weak after ten days of such a diet. However, Daniel was absolutely right. After ten days, they were healthier and stronger.

v15 "And at the end of ten days their countenances appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the children which did eat the portion of the king's meat."

❸ The Man of Power (v. 17-21)

v17 "As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams."

God gave Daniel the knowledge, skill, wisdom and power to understand and interpret visions and dreams. Likewise, the Almighty God shall give all these things to whoever believes and receives Him. Today we have even more than that, for Christ has given us the power and right to become the sons of God.

"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:" (John 1:12)

Prayer Of The Day

Dearest God, please help me to be a man of purpose, persistence and power.

DANIEL 2

Is Anything Impossible?

Verse Of The Day

v19 "Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven."

❶ Impossible (v. 1-13)

v5 "The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, The thing is gone from me: if ye will not make known unto me the dream, with the interpretation thereof, ye shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made a dunghill."

Imagine — the king of Babylon had dreamed a dream and forgotten it, yet he expected his wise men to tell him his forgotten dream! It was impossible for his wise men to know the king's dream, let alone interpret it. The bad news was that Daniel and his friends would also be killed, because the king had decreed that *all* wise men be executed if his dream was not told and interpreted to him.

v13 "And the decree went forth that the wise men should be slain; and they sought Daniel and his fellows to be slain."

❷ Possible (v. 14-35)

v18 "That they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret; that Daniel and his

fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon."

The God of heaven revealed to Daniel the forgotten dream of the king. The impossible became possible as Daniel desired and sought the mercies of the God of heaven.

v19 "Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven."

❸ Done (v. 36-49)

v45 "Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure."

God revealed to the king through Daniel that one day, the Persians (represented by silver), would one day defeat the king and his Babylonian kingdom (gold). And, one day, the Greeks (brass), would defeat the Persians. Then, the Romans (iron mixed with clay), would defeat the Greeks.

Indeed, no kingdom can remain forever except God's kingdom.

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." (Philippians 4:13)

Prayer Of The Day

Dearest God, thank You that I can do all things through You who strengthen me.

Do You Know The Fourth?

Verse Of The Day

v25 "He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God."

❶ The Fire (v. 1-7)

v1 "Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, whose height was threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof six cubits: he set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon."

Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, thought that he was the greatest in the world. He began to build a towering golden image which represented his power and glory. He then commanded everyone in his kingdom to worship the golden image, and those who refused to do so would be thrown into the burning fiery furnace.

v6 "And whoso falleth not down and worshippeth shall the same hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace."

❷ The Fury (v. 8-18)

v12 "There are certain Jews whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Shadrach,

Meshach, and Abednego; these men, O king, have not regarded thee: they serve not thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up."

There were three Jews, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who refused to worship the golden image. They prayed for God's deliverance, yet they were prepared to die in the fire. They believed that their God, their Creator would deliver them even in death, so how could they fear the king, who was but a creature like themselves?

v13 "Then Nebuchadnezzar in his rage and fury commanded to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Then they brought these men before the king."

❸ The Fourth (v. 19-30)

v25 "He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God."

The fourth was indeed the Son of God who walked with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and preserved their lives. Nebuchadnezzar not only pardoned but promoted them, as he realised that their God was the true God! Let us not fear man, but God — who alone can save or condemn not only our lives but our souls.

v30 "Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, in the province of Babylon."

Prayer Of The Day

Dearest God, thank You that I know You, the Fourth Man.

Do You Know The Most High God?

Verse Of The Day

v32 "And they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field: they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and seven times shall pass over thee, until thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will."

❶ The Alarm (v. 1-27)

v5 "I saw a dream which made me afraid, and the thoughts upon my bed and the visions of my head troubled me."

God sounded the alarm through a dream given to Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, which frightened and troubled him. Daniel then interpreted the king's dream, and warned him to repent of his arrogance and pride — or God would punish and humble him.

v8a "But at the last Daniel came in before me, whose name was Belteshazzar, according to the name of my god, and in whom is the spirit of the holy gods: and before him I told the dream..."

❷ The Arrogance (v. 28-32)

v30 "The king spake, and said, Is not this great

Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?"

The arrogant Nebuchadnezzar claimed to be more than a man, a living god, and God humbled him to be less than a man, a beast. God made him insane and drove him out of his palace, to dwell and eat with the beasts and the oxen in the field.

v32 "And they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field: they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and seven times shall pass over thee, until thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will."

❸ The Awakening (v. 33-37)

v34 "And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation:"

However, the time of awakening came as Nebuchadnezzar lifted up his eyes to heaven and acknowledged and blessed God. He realised that it was the most High God who promoted kings as well as removed them. There is only one most High God, and not even the most powerful king on earth can be compared to Him.

Prayer Of The Day

Dearest God, please humble me to know that You are the most High God.

Are You Glorifying God?

Verse Of The Day

v27 "TEKEL; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting."

❶ The Wine (v. 1-4)

v1 "Belshazzar the king made a great feast to a thousand of his lords, and drank wine before the thousand."

Belshazzar, the king of Babylon, mocked the Almighty God when he brought out the golden and silver vessels his father Nebuchadnezzar had captured from God's temple in Jerusalem — and used them for drinking wine during the great feast held with his princes, wives, concubines and lords. In the eyes of Belshazzar, his great feast was more important than God's vessels.

v2 "Belshazzar, whiles he tasted the wine, commanded to bring the golden and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple which was in Jerusalem; that the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, might drink therein."

❷ The Writing (v. 5-24)

v5 "In the same hour came forth fingers of a man's

hand, and wrote over against the candlestick upon the plaister of the wall of the king's palace: and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote."

King Belshazzar did not glorify or please the Lord of heaven when he blatantly used God's golden and silver vessels for wine-drinking during the great feast. That same hour, the fingers of the Lord wrote on the wall of the king's palace.

v23 "But [thou] hast lifted up thyself against the Lord of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of his house before thee, and thou, and thy lords, thy wives, and thy concubines, have drunk wine in them; and thou hast praised the gods of silver, and gold, of brass, iron, wood, and stone, which see not, nor hear, nor know: and the God in whose hand thy breath is, and whose are all thy ways, hast thou not glorified:"

❸ The Weight (v. 25-31)

v27 "TEKEL; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting."

The prophet Daniel interpreted the writing. The Lord of heaven had weighed King Belshazzar in His balance, and found him guilty. God had numbered and would soon end his life and his kingdom. That same night, King Darius of the Median kingdom suddenly invaded and killed Belshazzar, and subsequently defeated the Babylonian (or Chaldean) kingdom.

v30 "In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain."

Prayer Of The Day

Dearest God, please help me to always glorify You and You alone.

DANIEL 6

Will God Deliver You?

Verse Of The Day

v27 "He delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, who hath delivered Daniel from the power of the lions."

❶ The Deception of Man (v. 1-9)

v4 "Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him."

The leaders in the kingdom of the Medes and the Persians were jealous of Daniel because he was preferred above all of them, and King Darius thought to set him over the whole realm. They could not find any fault with Daniel, and eventually they deceived King Darius into establishing a royal statute — that whosoever asked a petition of any God or man for thirty days, except the King, would be cast into the den of lions. They knew that Daniel would disobey the statute as he had always faithfully asked petitions from his God.

❷ The Den of Lions (v. 10-17)

v10 "Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he

kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime."

The jealous leaders were right as Daniel continued to pray and give thanks to God three times a day, with his windows open in his chamber in spite of the royal statute. He would rather be devoured and die in the den of hungry lions than to stop praying to his holy God.

v16 "Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee."

❸ The Deliverance of God (v. 18-28)

v22 "My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt."

Faithful Daniel was delivered from the lions without hurt or harm as God sent His angel to shut the lions' mouths. God shall deliver His people from trials and troubles as they believe and trust in Him. Even without deliverance from the lions, Daniel knew the Lord would ultimately deliver him from the fiery pits of hell and transport him to the pearly portals of heaven.

v27 "He delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, who hath delivered Daniel from the power of the lions."

Prayer Of The Day

Dearest God, thank You for delivering me from trials and troubles.

DANIEL 7

Will You Quit?

Verse Of The Day

v28 "Hitherto is the end of the matter. As for me Daniel, my cogitations much troubled me, and my countenance changed in me: but I kept the matter in my heart."

❶ The Horror (v. 1-8)

v1 "In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel had a dream and visions of his head upon his bed: then he wrote the dream, and told the sum of the matters."

Daniel dreamt of four great beasts, which represented the four great empires of the ancient world. The first beast was the lion, or the Babylonian empire. The second was the bear, or the Medo-Persian Empire. The third was the leopard, or the Greek Macedonian Empire. Finally, the fourth beast was a fierce one with ten horns, representing the Roman Empire. The dream was certainly a nightmare; it horrified Daniel to see empire after empire rising, battling its predecessor and falling, all the while rebelling against the Almighty God.

v3 "And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another."

❷ The Hope (v. 9-14)

v9 "I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire."

The Ancient of days is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Daniel realised that the only hope and salvation for man is to believe in the Ancient of days, who shall ultimately save him from self-destruction and take him to the gates of heaven.

v10 "A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened."

❸ The Heart (v. 15-28)

v15 "I Daniel was grieved in my spirit in the midst of my body, and the visions of my head troubled me."

Daniel was grieved and troubled by the dreams and visions, yet he kept them in his heart and only wrote them by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to be revealed to future generations. He learned never to quit, but to trust in the Almighty God now and forever.

v28 "Hitherto is the end of the matter. As for me Daniel, my cogitations much troubled me, and my countenance changed in me: but I kept the matter in my heart."

Prayer Of The Day

Dearest God, please help me never to quit but to keep trusting You now and forever.

Who Is The Greatest?

Verse Of The Day

v8 "Therefore the he goat waxed very great: and when he was strong, the great horn was broken; and for it came up four notable ones toward the four winds of heaven."

❶ The Great Ram (v. 1-4)

v3 "Then I lifted up mine eyes, and saw, and, behold, there stood before the river a ram which had two horns: and the two horns were high; but one was higher than the other, and the higher came up last."

Daniel saw a vision of a great ram with two horns. This was none other than the Medo-Persian kingdom, with the lower horn representing the king of the Medes, and the higher horn representing the king of Persia.

v20 "The ram which thou sawest having two horns are the kings of Media and Persia."

❷ The Great Goat (v. 5-8)

v5 "And as I was considering, behold, an he goat came from the west on the face of the whole earth, and touched not the ground: and the goat had a notable horn between his eyes."

Before long the great goat (the Greeks) invaded and defeated the Medo-Persians. Its "great horn" was Alexander the Great, king of the Greek Macedonian Empire. However, Alexander died suddenly of an illness at the peak of his greatness. After his death, there was chaos and infighting. His empire was split into four territories, each ruled by one of his generals. In all the history of mankind there has never been a "greatest" kingdom or king, as only God and His kingdom are greatest.

v8 "Therefore the he goat waxed very great: and when he was strong, the great horn was broken; and for it came up four notable ones toward the four winds of heaven."

❸ The Great God (v. 9-27)

v9 "And out of one of them came forth a little horn, which waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant land."

The "little horn" was Antiochus, a subsequent Greek ruler who attempted to destroy the "pleasant land" (Israel). Indeed, in the history of mankind, kingdoms and kings have attempted to destroy Israel, yet they have never succeeded. Our great God always protects and preserves His people Israel, as well as His Church.

Prayer Of The Day

Dearest God, thank You for protecting and preserving me as You are the greatest.

DANIEL 9

Will You Repent?

Verse Of The Day

v3 "And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes:"

❶ The Resolution (v. 1-19)

v3 "And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes:"

Daniel's resolution was to seek God through prayer and fasting, when he read in the book of Jeremiah of God's judgment upon the people of Israel. Indeed, when we are faced with crises, the first priority is to pray, fast and seek God for His wisdom in dealing with them.

❷ The Repentance (v. 20-23)

v20 "And whiles I was speaking, and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God for the holy mountain of my God;"

The Bible does not record the sins of Daniel. Yet the fact that even he confessed and repented of his sin affirms that all have sinned and come short of the glory and holiness of God.

❸ The Reconciliation (v. 24-27)

v24 "Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy."

The 70 weeks are divided into 69 weeks, followed by the 70th week. The 69 weeks include the Messiah being cut off — a prophecy of the death of Christ in the 62nd week, which has already passed. Today we are waiting for the 70th week, which is known as the Great Tribulation. The Great Tribulation, which will last for 7 years, will take place after the Rapture. The Rapture (which can take place anytime from now) is the time where we, Christians, who believe in Christ shall be called up to be with God forever. During the Great Tribulation, the people of the prince (or the antichrist) shall reign for 3½ years. He will promise peace to everyone, but over the next 3½ years he will torment left-behind people who come to believe in Christ. After the Great Tribulation, all the people of Israel shall finally return to their land, thus fulfilling God's great promise. This period of return or reconciliation is known as the Millennium where the true Messiah, Jesus Christ, shall reign for a thousand years.

v26 "And after threescore and two (62) weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined."

Prayer Of The Day

Dearest God, please help me to repent of my sins and believe in Your promises.

Are You Strong?

Verse Of The Day

v19 "And [the angel] said, O man greatly beloved, fear not: peace be unto thee, be strong, yea, be strong. And when he had spoken unto me, I was strengthened, and said, Let my lord speak; for thou hast strengthened me."

❶ Be Sorrowful (v. 1-7)

v1 "In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a thing was revealed unto Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar; and the thing was true, but the time appointed was long: and he understood the thing, and had understanding of the vision."

The Almighty God revealed the spiritual condition of the people of Israel — they had become unholy and evil. This was why the prophet Daniel was sorrowful as he mourned for three weeks for his people to repent of their sins. It was sad and tragic that the people of Israel, supposedly the people of God and a godly example to the world, had become unholy and evil. Their lives were no different from the godless peoples around them.

v2 "In those days I Daniel was mourning three full weeks."

❷ Be Standing (v. 8-18)

v8 "Therefore I was left alone, and saw this great vision, and there remained no strength in me: for my comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and I retained no strength."

Daniel saw a great vision of not only the wickedness of the people of God, but the intense spiritual warfare between the angels of God and the demons of Satan. However, God encouraged Daniel to continue to stand upright despite the wickedness of the people.

v11 "And he said unto me, O Daniel, a man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak unto thee, and stand upright: for unto thee am I now sent. And when he had spoken this word unto me, I stood trembling."

❸ Be Strong (v. 19-21)

v19 "And [the angel] said, O man greatly beloved, fear not: peace be unto thee, be strong, yea, be strong. And when he had spoken unto me, I was strengthened, and said, Let my lord speak; for thou hast strengthened me."

God sent an angel to strengthen and encourage Daniel. The Word of God promises that the Almighty God together with His archangel Michael and the rest of His angels shall certainly prevail against the Devil and his demons, both now and forever.

v21 "But I will shew thee that which is noted in the scripture of truth: and there is none that holdeth with me in these things, but Michael your prince."

Prayer Of The Day

Dearest God, please strengthen me so that I shall be strong in You and You alone.

Do You Know God?

Verse Of The Day

v32 "And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits."

❶ The Mighty King (v. 1-20)

v3 "And a mighty king shall stand up, that shall rule with great dominion, and do according to his will."

This "mighty king" was none other than Alexander the Great, the king of the Greek Macedonian Empire. He not only defeated the great Persian Empire, but conquered vast amounts of territory until an illness suddenly killed him. He never knew God, and was determined to do his own will (or the devil's) in destroying the Jews, God's chosen people. However, he failed because God protects His chosen people.

❷ The Vile Person (v. 21-29)

v21 "And in his estate shall stand up a vile person, to whom they shall not give the honour of the kingdom: but he shall come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries."

The "vile person" was none other than Antiochus IV Epiphanes, who became the king of Syria by guile and treachery. He

never knew God and was against the holy covenant of the Jews. However, he too failed to destroy them.

v28 "Then shall he return into his land with great riches; and his heart shall be against the holy covenant; and he shall do exploits, and return to his own land."

❸ The Godly People (v. 30-45)

v30 "For the ships of Chittim shall come against him: therefore he shall be grieved, and return, and have indignation against the holy covenant: so shall he do; he shall even return, and have intelligence with them that forsake the holy covenant."

Antiochus did not reign for long, as subsequently the "ships of Chittim" (the naval power of the Roman Empire) defeated them. No empire or kingdom except God's will last forever, and no matter how the devil uses mighty kings or vile persons to destroy the nation of Israel, God shall always protect her. Though many Jews refused to know God, there was still a remnant who knew God and continued to live godly lives.

Today God's people are both the Jews and the Gentiles who know the Lord Jesus Christ. These godly people shall always remain strong because they are His chosen people.

v32 "And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits."

Prayer Of The Day

Dearest God, thank You that I am strong because I know You.

Will You Believe?

Verse Of The Day

v2 "And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt."

❶ The Great Tribulation (v. 1)

v1 "And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book."

God gave Daniel a vision that there shall be a time of trouble known as the Great Tribulation, which shall come after the Rapture — that is, the moment all Christians shall be caught up to heaven to meet the Lord. Those who live during the Great Tribulation will find it almost impossible to believe in Christ because the devil reigns during that time. This is why Christians are commanded to share the Gospel of Christ to their unbelieving loved ones and friends, while there is still time before the Rapture.

"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."
(1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)

❷ The Great Judgment (v. 2-9)

v2 "And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt."

There shall come a time of the Great Judgment where God shall sit on a great white throne, and judge every person who has ever lived whether they have received Christ as their personal Saviour.

"And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works."
(Revelation 20:11-12)

❸ The Great Choice (v. 10-13)

v10 "Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand."

Today, if you choose to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, you are among the wise who understand.

Prayer Of The Day

Dearest God, I believe in You and I shall have everlasting life with You in heaven.

Conclusion

Be as brave as the lion; be as brave as Daniel and Ezekiel. Keep standing before the Lord no matter who you are, where you are, and how you are.

May the Almighty God grant you the strength, beauty and bravery of the lion as you faithfully feast upon His Word. The past 60 days have given you a taste of the holy and blessed books of Daniel and Ezekiel, but there is still much more to learn from them.

> "And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none." (Ezekiel 22:30)

Are you the man who is found faithfully standing before the Lord? If you are a Christian, let us pray to the Almighty God that we continue standing tall before Him.

If you are not a Christian, and if you desire to be a Christian, please pray this prayer:

Dearest God,

I am a sinner and I have sinned against You. I seek Your forgiveness, and I confess and renounce the sins and wrongdoings in my life. I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and that He died on the cross for my sins so that I can have eternal life with Him in heaven. Today, I desire to be a Christian, and to receive Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour. Thank You for the gift of salvation.

In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."
(John 3:16)

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"
(Romans 3:23)

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."
(Romans 6:23)

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."
(Romans 10:9)

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."
(Ephesians 2:8-9)

Standing Before the Lord brings together 60 devotions from the books of Daniel and Ezekiel, two great prophets who stood like lions before their God in the midst of terrible trials and suffering.

The Lord is still seeking brave men and women who, like them, will courageously stand before Him for their land. In times of chaos and uncertainty like those of Daniel and Ezekiel, the examples and words of these two men of God hold powerful truths, profound wisdom and incredible comfort for His servants today. Will you answer the Almighty God's call and stand before Him for your land?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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